
1. Background

Shahidi wa Maji (SwM) is a not-for-profit Civil Society Organisation (CSO) committed to sustainable and climate-resilient water resources management, as well as improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. SwM delivers its mission through evidence-based sector advocacy, community empowerment, and promotion of innovative solutions to improve water security and systems strengthening. Under its 2021–2026 Strategic Plan, SwM addresses water governance challenges by advocating for structural and systemic reforms to ensure the sustainable management, equitable access, and efficient use of water resources (SwM, 2021). The organisation uses robust evidence and works in collaboration with reputable sector partners, alliances, and networks to constructively engage policymakers. SwM also collaborates with communities, the media, development agencies, influential NGOs, and the private sector to drive public accountability and promote water security for all Tanzanians.

The Government of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Water (MoW), is implementing the Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP) for the period 2006–2025. The WSDP adopts a technically broad approach that spans water resources management, urban and rural water supply, and sanitation. It is grounded in a Sector-Wide Approach to Planning (SWAP), which aligns and coordinates government, civil society, and development partner (DP) resources toward achieving national water sector goals. Coordination is operationalised through the Water Dialogue Framework, comprising mechanisms such as Technical Working Groups (TWGs), Joint Supervision Missions, and Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs).

Civil society organizations, through the Tanzania Water and Sanitation Network (TAWASANET),¹ play a critical role in this framework. Their mandate includes providing independent oversight of WSDP implementation, primarily through the Equity Report, providing analysis of equity and performance of the water sector. Key roles of CSOs include:

- Monitoring and reporting on sector performance and exposing malpractice and injustice;
- Ensuring that the voices, concerns, and priorities of citizens and interest groups are expressed and addressed;
- Supporting the operational delivery and continuous improvement of water supply, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and water resource management (WRM).

¹ TAWASANET is a national network of civil society organizations (CSOs) working to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in Tanzania.

The annual Equity Reports delivered by TAWASANET, plays a key role in the sector dialogue process by providing independent oversight on sector progress, bringing evidence as to how well performance on WASH and water resource management is progressing, and the social equity implications of this performance for Tanzania. The aim is to foster open, objective dialogue, enhance sector performance, and support progress toward universal water security. Through its member organizations, TAWASANET coordinates and amplifies the voices of individuals and communities, presenting them on national platforms to influence policy and drive improvements in water supply and water resources management. This includes shaping relevant laws, regulations, and their implementation. Civil society and community perspectives are shared through key engagement platforms such as the Water Sector Development Program (WSDP), the annual Joint Water Sector Reviews (JWSRs), Technical Working Groups (TWGs), Joint Supervision Missions (JSMs), and national and global sector commemorations such as World Water Week, Global Handwashing Day, and Sanitation Week. TAWASANET has a permanent seat in the dialogue process granted by both the Ministry of Water (MoW) and Development Partners (DPs) and prepares and presents an independent Equity Report on how the sector has addressed equity concerns (TAWASANET, 2020).

In collaboration with consortium partners from Tanzania, Malawi, and Burkina Faso, SwM is implementing the multidisciplinary research project, Behavioural Adaptation for Water Security and INclusion (BASIN), which aims to synthesise, assess, and test the application of multi-level Behavioural and Psychological Science (B&PS) perspectives to improve adaptation strategies and enhance inclusive water security for the most vulnerable populations. The project investigates adaptation behaviours and practices at the individual, organisational, and systemic levels, with a focus on improving resilience to climate-induced water related hazards, such as droughts and floods. Led by the London School of Economics (LSE), the BASIN project seeks to support socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience against climate change and natural hazards. It is funded through the global CLARE (Climate Adaptation and Resilience) programme, jointly designed and managed by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Under the BASIN project, Shahidi wa Maji (SwM) aims to conduct a national-level policy review and analysis to assess how water sector policies, programs, and strategies have incorporated recommendations from the past ten Equity Reports. The findings from this analysis will evaluate the government's responsiveness to citizen voices and inform future advocacy efforts for a more equitable and effective water sector in Tanzania. Additionally, this initiative will stimulate and advance national dialogue on the water sector's performance and its integration of stakeholders' recommendations.

2. Purpose and objectives

This assignment intends to generate knowledge on behavioural practices and incentives that influence decision-makers at the national level to adopt research-based recommendations provided by stakeholders to improve water security in Tanzania.

Specifically, the assignment will;

- a) Assess the extent to which recommendations from the past 10 Equity reports (2013-2024) have been considered and reflected in national and sub-national water policies, programs, and strategies.
- b) Identify areas where critical equity-related recommendations remain unaddressed or partially integrated.
- c) Assess whether and how policies and programmes have responded to the needs of marginalized groups (e.g., women, youth, people with disabilities, rural poor) as highlighted in the Equity reports.
- d) Identify and analyse the behavioural incentives and factors that led to the adoption or non-adoption of specific recommendations from the equity reports.
- e) Generate lessons that can improve the design, mechanisms and influence of future Equity reports.
- f) Provide key recommendations and windows of opportunity on how best Equity reports can inform Government actions for improving Tanzania's Water security.

3. Scope of the assignment

Coverage and timeframe

For the purpose of this assignment, the consultant will assess policies, strategies, and programmes developed or implemented over the last 10 years, aligned with the period covered by the 10 Equity Reports from 2013-2024. The consultant shall review key sectoral documents to assess how they reflect Equity Report recommendations. Key documents to be reviewed shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) TAWASANET Equity reports from 2013 – 2024.
- b) Tanzania Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP) phase I, II and III.
- c) The National Water Policy 2002 version 2025
- d) The Water Resources Management Amendment) Act, 2022
- e) Budget Guidelines and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs),
- f) Basin IWRM plans,
- g) Strategic documents from the Basin water Boards and RUWASA,
- h) National local sanitation and hygiene strategies.

Stakeholder Consultations

- a) The consultant shall consult officials from the following institutions:
- b) Ministry of Water (MoW)
- c) Basin Water Boards
- d) Local Government Authorities (LGAs)

- e) Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA)
- f) Development partners and civil society organisations.
- g) Community representatives and service users (especially marginalized groups)
- h) Parliament sectoral committees
- i) TAWASANET

4. Key deliverables

The Consultant will deliver the following;

- a) Inception Report with methodology and data collection tools
- b) Policy and Programme Review Matrix
- c) Stakeholder consultation summary
- d) Draft and Final Analysis Reports
- e) Present findings in validation workshop
- f) Policy brief (2–3 pages) summarizing key findings and actionable recommendations

5. Methodology

The assignment will employ desk review and key informant interviews with respective planning officials from above listed institutions. The prospective consultants should present a detailed methodology in their technical proposals.

6. Timeframe

The Consultant will complete this assignment within 30 Calendar days, from contract signing date, with only 25 payable days. During the recruitment process, a detailed timeframe proposed by the Consultant shall be discussed and agreed upon with Shahidi wa Maji and contributing partners.

7. Qualification of the Consultant

We seek a dynamic Tanzanian/firm with;

- a) Advanced degree in Water Resources Management, Public Policy, Development Studies, Governance, or a related field.
- b) Understanding of Tanzania's water sector policies, Legislations and governance frameworks, and the institutional and operational set-up of the Water sector Development Programme (WSDP) 2006 – 2025.
- c) Familiarity with equity and inclusion dimensions in water resource management and service delivery.
- d) Demonstrated experience in reviewing, analyzing and evaluating national policies, strategies, and development plans.
- e) Verifiable success in undertaking similar assignments in Tanzania or elsewhere around the globe.
- f) Ability to assess alignment, integration, and implementation of policy recommendations within institutional frameworks.

- g) Demonstrable understanding of the national, trends and complexities of water security management
- h) Ability to work under minimal supervision and deliver assignments in a timely fashion.
- i) Reputable record of compliance with the code of conduct and research ethics while undertaking similar assignments.
- j) Experience working with or alongside CSOs or advocacy platforms (especially in Tanzania or similar contexts) is an added advantage.

8. Submission of applications

SwM invites eligible applicants to submit technical and financial proposals detailing their understanding of the ToR, capacity statement, and previous experience on a similar/related assignment. Additionally, the applicant should provide a robust approach/methodology, proposed budget, and realistic timelines for accomplishing the task. Submit your application to info@shahidiwamaji.org copy it pendohyera@shahidiwamaji.org by 6st June 2025.