



## Lagos Urban Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (LUWASH) Activity Request for Applications (RFA) Combatting Cholera in Lagos State

Funding Opportunity Number:	LUWASH-RFA-2024-001
Activity Name:	Combatting Cholera in Lagos State
Date of issuance:	July 3, 2024
Closing date for questions:	July 10, 2024
Pre-application workshop:	July 12, 2024
Closing date of this RFA:	August 2, 2024
Submit application to:	<a href="mailto:nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com">nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com</a>

*\*We urge applicants to submit their applications well before the deadline. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. This approach allows LUWASH to begin assessing applications and potentially award grants more quickly to address the urgent needs related to the cholera outbreak in Lagos State.*

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Issuance Date: July 3, 2024

Dear Applicant:

Lagos Urban Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (LUWASH) Activity, implemented by Chemonics International, is seeking grant applications for the implementation of critical hygiene-related activities in response to the severe cholera outbreak currently affecting Lagos State, Nigeria. This Request for Application (RFA) aims to support interventions that will significantly improve WASH service delivery and infrastructure through strengthened community engagement, increased public awareness, and enhanced hygiene practices among vulnerable populations. Successful applicants will play a vital role in supporting the Lagos State Government's efforts to mitigate the spread of cholera, reduce morbidity and mortality rates, and build long-term community resilience against waterborne diseases.

The grants will be awarded and implemented in accordance with USAID and US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and LUWASH internal grant management policies.

The project will hold a virtual pre-application workshop on July 12, 2024, from 12pm – 1pm. This workshop will allow eligible and interested applicants the chance to ask questions about the RFA and receive guidance on how to complete the application form. Interested applicants that meet the eligibility requirements defined in Section III below and would like to attend this workshop must confirm their attendance by sending the participant's name and the organization's name to [nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com](mailto:nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com). All questions from the workshop, as well as the corresponding official answers, will be made accessible to all applicants.

A soft copy of the application document can be downloaded by clicking [Application Document](#) or by submitting a request to [nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com](mailto:nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com).

LUWASH and Chemonics employees may not ask for, and applicants are prohibited from offering, any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation to obtain or reward improper favorable treatment regarding this solicitation. Any improper request from a project employee should be reported to the chief of party or [BusinessConduct@chemonics.com](mailto:BusinessConduct@chemonics.com).

Annexes included with this Request for Applications:

- **Annex A** – Grant Application Form
- **Annex B** – Grant Application Budget Form
- **Annex C** – Implementation Timeline

- Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award can be accessed through the following URL:  
<https://www.usaid.gov/about-us/agency-policy/series-300/references-chapter/303mat>
- Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through following URL:  
<https://www.usaid.gov/about-us/agency-policy/series-300/references-chapter/303maa>
- Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through the following URL:  
<https://www.usaid.gov/about-us/agency-policy/series-300/references-chapter/303mab>

## **SECTION I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **IA. OBJECTIVE**

LUWASH activity is awarding grants to eligible organizations located in Nigeria. The grants will be implemented through the capacity building, research, and advocacy fund (CAREVO fund). The objective of the grant is to identify and partner with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), or community-based organizations (CBOs) already providing WASH services at the community level and capable of implementing effective interventions to respond to the cholera outbreak in Lagos State. The program seeks to mitigate the spread of cholera and reduce morbidity and mortality rates while ensuring long-term sustainability by empowering communities with the knowledge, resources, and infrastructure necessary to prevent future outbreaks and improve WASH practices.

### **IB. BACKGROUND**

The USAID/Nigeria LUWASH Activity is a five-year program which seeks to expand and improve urban WASH service delivery and infrastructure in Lagos. The goal of the project is to increase the availability and sustainable management of safe and climate-resilient water and sanitation services in Lagos. The project aims to expand and improve WASH service delivery and infrastructure through strengthened governance, increased accountability, and improved financial and technical capabilities of public water utilities and private sector providers.

LUWASH's approach transcends basic support and enhancement of the service delivery system. It is designed to foster transformation rooted in a strengthened social consensus. The program acknowledges that addressing the WASH needs of the state extends beyond the capabilities of utilities alone, it emphasizes the requirement for decentralized yet integrated services. The significance of Nonstate Providers (NSPs) underscores the importance of effective regulation. As a result, LUWASH seeks to strengthen significant public entities and provide support to the private sector and CBOs, empowering them to play a pivotal role in WASH service provision. This encompasses aspects such as pro-poor protection, upholding public trust, and ensuring accountability.

Through collaboration with the State Government, Civil Society, and the Private Sector Partners, LUWASH aims to ultimately increase the availability, quality, and use of safe water and sanitation services and improve the governance and sustainable management of associated sector institutions in Lagos, Nigeria. The expected outcomes of this activity include: 1) Increasing access to improved water and sanitation services for people in low-income communities. 2) Improved performance of public and private service providers (non-revenue water, improved cost recovery, customer orientation, etc.), and 3) Additional funds mobilized from public and private financing sources to improve services.

These will be achieved through the implementation of the following components:

1. Governance and institutional arrangements strengthened to deliver improved WASH services.
2. Improve public and non-state service provider performance.
3. Increase access to safe and sustainable water services; and
4. Increase household access to safe and sustainable sanitation and improve the quality of source water.

Lagos State, Nigeria's most populous city, is currently experiencing a severe cholera outbreak. Cholera, a highly contagious disease caused by ingesting contaminated water or food, has led to significant morbidity and mortality in the region. The outbreak is exacerbated by inadequate access to clean water,

poor sanitation, and insufficient health infrastructure. Given the rapid urbanization of Lagos State, the population density further complicates the containment and management of cholera cases.

In response to this critical situation, the Lagos State Government, in collaboration with national and international health agencies, is implementing a coordinated and comprehensive approach to combat the outbreak. This strategy includes immediate medical intervention, the enhancement of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, and extensive community education efforts aimed at preventing the further spread of the disease.

To support these efforts, USAID/LUWASH Activity is seeking applications from eligible organizations with experience in WASH service delivery and community mobilization to address critical needs in mitigating the spread of cholera (while ensuring coordination and avoiding duplication with any ongoing or upcoming efforts by the GON, other implementing partners, and donors). The objective of this RFA is to identify and partner with NGOs, CSOs, or CBOs capable of implementing effective hygiene-related interventions to respond to the cholera outbreak in Lagos State.

LUWASH recognizes the crucial role of NGOs, CSOs, or CBOs in mobilizing communities and delivering essential services locally. This program seeks to partner with qualified organizations to implement a comprehensive and targeted intervention program with a dual focus: immediate response to the cholera outbreak and long-term sustainability of WASH practices.

## **IC. DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The primary applicants for this grant are NGOs, CSOs, and CBOs with a proven track record in WASH service delivery and community mobilization. These organizations are already embedded within the communities they serve, providing a unique advantage in implementing targeted interventions efficiently and effectively. Beneficiaries of this program are the vulnerable populations residing in high-risk areas of Lagos State who are currently experiencing the brunt of the cholera outbreak. These communities face significant challenges in accessing clean water, proper sanitation, and adequate health services, making them particularly susceptible to cholera and other waterborne diseases.

The scope of work for the eligible organizations involves a multifaceted approach to addressing the cholera outbreak and improving WASH conditions. First, targeted hygiene promotion campaigns will be implemented to educate communities on proper handwashing practices, safe water treatment methods, and hygienic sanitation practices. This education will be supplemented by the distribution of hygiene kits, including essential items such as soap, hand sanitizer, and water purification tablets, to households in high-risk areas. Infrastructure improvements will also be a key focus, with efforts directed at repairing and rehabilitating existing water points and sanitation facilities. The promotion of household latrines in areas with limited access to sanitation facilities will further enhance community health outcomes.

Additionally, the program will aim to improve access to safe drinking water by chlorinating existing water points and support operation and maintenance of such existing water supply systems in areas such as communities, schools, markets, and public places. Community mobilization efforts will be strengthened through the dissemination of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials tailored to the local context and language. These materials will address cholera symptoms, prevention measures, and the importance of seeking immediate medical attention. Training programs for CBO staff and community volunteers will ensure that local capacity is built for ongoing cholera prevention and control measures. Lastly, fostering collaboration between CBOs, local authorities, and other stakeholders will be crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of these interventions.

The overarching goal of this program is to mitigate the spread of cholera and reduce associated morbidity and mortality rates in Lagos State. By empowering communities with the necessary knowledge, resources, and infrastructure, the program aims to prevent future outbreaks and enhance overall WASH practices and conditions. Addressing the cholera outbreak requires an immediate and robust response to protect public health and prevent further spread of the disease. Additionally, the program seeks to build resilient communities that can sustain improved WASH practices over the long term, thereby reducing their vulnerability to cholera and other waterborne diseases in the future.

The interventions are designed to be implemented immediately upon the selection and funding of the CBOs. This prompt action is critical in responding to the current cholera outbreak and preventing its further escalation. While the initial focus will be on immediate response activities, the program also places a strong emphasis on long-term sustainability. This dual focus ensures that the benefits of the interventions extend beyond the immediate crisis, fostering lasting improvements in WASH practices and infrastructure.

The targeted areas for these interventions are high-risk regions within Lagos State, including but not limited to low-income communities, schools, markets, and public places. These locations have been identified based on their heightened vulnerability to cholera due to factors such as inadequate access to clean water, poor sanitation facilities, and high population density. By focusing on these critical areas, the program aims to address the most urgent needs and create a significant impact on public health outcomes.

## **ID. AUTHORITY/GOVERNING REGULATIONS**

LUWASH grant awards are made under the authority of the U.S. Foreign Affairs Act and USAID's Advanced Directive System (ADS) 302.3.5.6, "Grants Under Contracts." Awards will adhere to guidance provided under [ADS Chapter 303](#), "Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations" and will be within the terms of the USAID Standard Provisions as linked in the annexes, as well as the LUWASH grants procedures.

ADS 303 references two additional regulatory documents issued by the U.S. Government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the U.S. Agency for International Development:

- 2 CFR 200 [Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Subpart E](#) (U.S. applicants are subject to 2 CFR 200 in its entirety) Full text of 2 CFR 200 can be found at [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200\\_main\\_02.tpl](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl)
- Mandatory and Required As Applicable Standard Provisions:
  - o Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mat.pdf>
  - o Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mab.pdf>

LUWASH will ensure that all organizations receiving USAID grant funds comply with the guidance found in the regulations referenced above, as applicable to the respective terms and conditions of their grant awards. Under the LUWASH grant program, USAID retains the right at all times to terminate, in whole or in part, LUWASH grant-making authorities.

## SECTION II. AWARD INFORMATION

LUWASH anticipates awarding up to ten (10) grants to eligible organizations. It is anticipated that each grant award may range from between the USD equivalent to \$50,000 to \$200,000 (in Naira), but the final amount will be dependent upon grant activities and final negotiation. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be on more than 12 Months. The specific type of grants to be issued will be decided during the negotiation process.

## SECTION III. ELIGIBILITY

### IIIA. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

Eligible applicants for this grant must be NGOs, CSOs, or CBOs with a proven track record in WASH service delivery and community mobilization in Nigeria, particularly in high-risk areas affected by the cholera outbreak. Applicants must:

- demonstrate their capacity to implement comprehensive and effective interventions in water, sanitation, and hygiene. This includes prior involvement in activities such as hygiene promotion, infrastructure repair and rehabilitation, community education, and training.
- be registered in Nigeria and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations.
- be operating as an independent non-politically affiliated organization.
- not be debarred, suspended, excluded or otherwise ineligible to receive US Federal funding.
- be able to demonstrate potential and relevant capability and performance related to LUWASH's priorities as further described under Sections IA and IB, and/or actual successful past performance in implementation of integrated development programs related to LUWASH priorities.
- display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. LUWASH will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.
- All applicants must adhere to USAID and US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and LUWASH internal grant management policies.
- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind, equivalent to \$25,000 USD or more, and has no anticipated subawards, grantees will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is made. LUWASH will assist successful applicants with this process. More information on UEIs can be found [here](#).

Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in ADS 303.3.28 except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.

LUWASH encourages applications from new organizations who meet the above eligibility criteria. The project will work with the successful applicants to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the grant agreement.

Applicants should adhere to actions on gender equality and social inclusion as established in the RFA and/or any other actions established by LUWASH that are guided by [USAID's Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#).

## **SECTION IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

### **IVA. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS**

Applicants are encouraged to provide comprehensive, context-specific applications that demonstrate their understanding of local challenges and their capacity to deliver effective, sustainable solutions to the cholera outbreak and WASH issues in Lagos State.

#### **IVA1. PRE-AWARD RISK ASSESSMENT**

All organizations selected for the award are subject to a pre-award risk assessment conducted by LUWASH, to ascertain whether the organization has the minimum management capabilities required to handle US government funds.

#### **IVA2. GRANT APPLICATION**

Templates to be utilized when developing the application are provided in Annex A-B. Applicants shall present their technical application and budget in the formats provided and shall follow the instructions and guidelines listed in these annexes.

All grant activity costs must be within the normal operating practices of the Applicant and in accordance with its written policies and procedures. For applicants without an audited indirect cost rate, the budget may include direct costs that will be incurred by the Applicant to provide identifiable administrative and management costs that can be directly attributable to supporting the grant objective.

The application must be signed by an authorized agent of the Applicant.

#### **IVA3. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

LUWASH grant funds may not be utilized for the following:

- Construction or infrastructure activities of any kind. Note that Per ADS 303.3.30 and the ADS 303 Mandatory Reference entitled, “USAID Implementation of Construction Activities” dated August 22, 2013, construction is not eligible for reimbursement under sub-awards resulting from this solicitation. Construction also includes improvements, renovation, alteration, and refurbishment.
- Ceremonies, parties, celebrations, or “representation” expenses.
- Purchases of restricted goods, such as: restricted agricultural commodities, motor vehicles including motorcycles, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, contraceptive products, used equipment; without the previous approval of LUWASH, or prohibited goods, prohibited goods under USAID regulations, including but not limited to the following: abortion equipment and services, luxury goods, etc.
- Covered telecommunication and video surveillance equipment or services – per the standard provision entitled “Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment”, grant funds including direct and indirect costs, cost share and program income may not be used to (1) procure or obtain; (2) extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or (3) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services (“CTES”) as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. This prohibition covers certain telecommunications equipment and services, including, but not limited to, phones, internet, video surveillance, and cloud servers, produced or provided by Huawei

Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities) unless LUWASH has determined that there is no available alternate eligible source for the CTES. For fixed amount awards, this restriction is only applicable if any of the milestones are for telecommunication or video surveillance services or equipment.

- Alcoholic beverages.
- Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under the prevailing USAID source/nationality (Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria).
- Any purchase or activity which has already been made.
- Purchases or activities unnecessary to accomplish grant purposes as determined by the LUWASH Project, including any grantee headquarters expenses that are not directly linked to the implementation of the proposed program.
- Prior obligations of and/or, debts, fines, and penalties imposed on the Grantee.
- Creation of endowments.
- In general, costs not included in the approved budget may not be allowed unless approved in writing by LUWASH.

#### **IVB. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

A soft copy of the application document can be downloaded by clicking [Application Document](#) or by submitting a request to [nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com](mailto:nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com). **Applications shall be submitted in English and may not be more than 20 pages.**

Application (including the budget and supporting documentation) should be submitted electronically (email) to [nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com](mailto:nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com) and should reference LUWASH-RFA-2024-001. Applications must be submitted no later than August 2, 2024, at 11.59pm local time. Late or unresponsive applications will only be considered at the discretion of LUWASH.

We urge applicants to submit their application well before the deadline. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. This approach allows LUWASH to begin assessing applications and potentially award grants more quickly to address the urgent needs related to the cholera outbreak in Lagos State.

In addition to the application forms and budget, applicants should submit the following to LUWASH Activity:

- Implementation Plan
- A copy of the Applicant's valid legal registration and incorporation documents.
- A copy of their latest audited financial statements.

Please submit all questions concerning this solicitation via email to [nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com](mailto:nga-luwash-grants@chemonics.com).

LUWASH Activity may not respond individually to each question submitted. Instead, questions and response related to this LUWASH-RFA2024-001 will be sent to all applicants on or before July 14, 2024.

#### **SECTION V. APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA**

Full applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria in the table below. Only organizations that meet the eligibility requirements described in Section III and align with the objective of the activity (described in Section 1A) will be evaluated. The specific merit review criteria are as follows:



<b>Merit Review Category</b>	<b>Rating (Points)</b>
Feasibility of Design & Technical Approach	30
Management & Programmatic Capacity	20
Sustainability/Financial Self-Reliance	20
Past Performance	30
<b>Overall Rating (out of 100 points)</b>	<b>100</b>

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below.

**1. Feasibility of Design & Technical Approach. 30 points**

- a. The quality and feasibility of the application in terms of the viability of the proposed technical approach, (i.e., the proposed technical approach can reasonably be expected to produce the intended outcomes). The Appropriateness of the proposed methodology, innovativeness, and ability to achieve the intended outcomes.
- b. The extent to which the proposed activity integrates gender equity and social inclusion, demonstrating a strong commitment to benefiting women, youths, persons with disabilities, and other excluded groups.
- c. Lastly, the extent to which the proposed activity corresponds to the needs of the target group(s) and will directly benefit them.

**2. Management & Programmatic Capacity. 20 points**

- a. Evidence of the capability to undertake and accomplish the proposed activities leading to improved urban WASH service delivery.
- b. A clear demonstration of how progress and impact will be tracked, measured, and reported, with clear and appropriate expected accomplishments, with measurable output and performance indicators.
- c. The extent to which the application demonstrates the organization's effectiveness in terms of internal structure, technical capacity, and key personnel, in meeting the LUWASH objectives for the grant. In addition, the organization must demonstrate adequate financial management capability. The evaluation will primarily consider the backgrounds, qualifications, reputation, suitability, and expertise of its key personnel, as well as the organization's past achievements, including its track record in developing self-sustaining, enduring activities.
- d. Established and successful institutional presence in Lagos

**3. Sustainability/Financial Self-Reliance. 20 points**

- a. The extent to which the funded activity will result in building and strengthening the capacity of the community and local organizations.
- b. The potential for leveraging additional resources, funding, or partnerships beyond the grant amount to support the activity, and whether the activity itself is sustainable or will promote sustainability of the organization as well as LUWASH interventions in Lagos.
- c. The extent to any coordination or harmonization with existing implementing partners and/or other donors operating in this space to avoid duplication and to leverage shared resources.

**4. Past Performance. 30 points.**

- a. Previous or ongoing experience implementing similar activities. This examines an Applicant's references and experience, which is a critical factor in assessing the capacity of the organization to implement the activity.

Additionally, LUWASH will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation as required by 22 CFR 216.

## **SECTION VI. AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

All grants will be negotiated, denominated, and funded in Nigerian Naira. All costs funded by the grant must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Grant applications must be supported by a detailed and realistic budget as described in Section IV.

Issuance of this RFA and assistance with application development do not constitute an award or commitment on the part of LUWASH, nor does it commit LUWASH to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, LUWASH reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the applicants. Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision made regarding their application.