

TERMS OF REFERENCE

An Analysis of Climate Adaptation Financing and Decision Making behaviors in Tanzania's Local level Authorities.

1. Context of Climate Financing in Tanzania

Climate change (CC) presents additional stress for Tanzanians already struggling with the challenges posed by environmental degradation and widespread poverty. Extreme temperatures, heavy rainfall, floods, prolonged dry spells, and droughts have affected the quality and quantity of water resources in many parts of the country, including Mpwapwa District. CC has disrupted agricultural activities and even increased habitat suitability for biting insects, for example, mosquitoes causing malaria, tsetsefly, pests, and transmission of vector-borne diseases.

The Government of Tanzania (GoT) has made various efforts to manage the risks of climate change in social and economic sectors. The country is a subscriber to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has developed strategies such as the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPAs), National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS 2021 – 2026), and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2022). Government Ministries, departments, agencies, and units have also mainstreamed climate action strategies to create resilience in their areas. However, climate financing and acting on the strategy remains a significant challenge. The country largely relies on funding from international sources pledged by developed parties of the UNFCCC, which is not forthcoming as expected.

Shahidi wa Maji (SwM) believes international financing will never be enough to build the country's resilience and sustainable development. There exist opportunities for Tanzania's Government to prioritize climate action in the sectoral, district councils and village development plans and budgets to minimize the current and anticipated climate-induced losses and damage for sustainable and resilient water security and economic growth.

On this background, Shahidi wa Maji intends to conduct a behavioral analysis of district and village authorities in Mpwapwa and Mvomero Districts, to understand how decision makers engage with adaptation actions through short-term, medium-term, and long-term development plans and budgets. The study's findings will inform the water sector on best ways to mainstream climate action budgets in the districts and community' development budgets thereby improving government's investment in climate-resilient water resources management and use.

2. The purpose of the study

The study focuses on developing the sector understanding on how well the Basins, local government authorities and village councils invest on climate actions to enhance water security for vulnerable communities. The study will assess and analyse what influences the behaviour of decision makers when it comes to prioritizing and funding climate adaptation at the local level and in a gender inclusive way. This study will define the framework for action within which the decision makers operate, delineating their freedom to act and key policy or legal constraints or incentives that define their 'choice architecture' at different times of the policy and electoral cycles. This should include recommendations for opportunities to influence this choice architecture to further incentive climate adaptation promoting behaviour.

3. Objectives of the study

3.1 Specifically, assignment intends:

1. To examine the policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks that enable or constrain decision makers' ability to allocate resources to support gender-responsive climate-adaptive water security management actions in selected basin, district and village levels.
2. Conduct a desk review tracking and analyzing financial allocations and expenditures on climate change adaptation for 1 Basin water Board, 2 districts and 7 village councils (Mkindo, Lukenge, Kambala, Kinda, Msagali, Msaze and Gulwe) within the project area. This involves reviewing key government frameworks, documents and plans including budget Speech, budget books, citizen budget, among others.
3. To analyse the behavioural drivers influencing decision-making, including political, social, economic, and personal incentives that shape how climate adaptation is prioritised at the local level.
4. To provide recommendations of approaches or actions that would influence how decision makers act to promote climate adaptation behaviour.

4.Scope of the study and critical stakeholders

The study will focus on identifying when and how decision-makers are incentivized to support climate adaptation actions, and the factors that constrain such action. It will examine behavioral, institutional, and policy factors influencing how climate adaptation is prioritized and financed to enhance water security at basin and local government levels.

The study will analyze:

- The operational environment within which key actors' function
- Institutional constraints and incentives shaping decision-making
- Opportunities for leveraging more responsive and inclusive adaptation investments that improve water security and livelihoods of vulnerable communities

Geographically, the study will cover:

- Wami/Ruvu Basin Water Board
- Mvomero District Council
- Mpwapwa District Council
- Seven village authorities: Mkindo, Lukenge, Kambala, Kinda, Msagali, Msaze, and Gulwe.

The study will engage a range of stakeholders, including local government officials, planners, councilors, technical staff, and selected national policymakers whose mandates influence local-level decision-making processes.

5.Methodology

As part of the inception report, the Consultant is expected to present a robust methodology to meet the expectations of this study. This is expected to primarily be a desk-based and analytical study, rather than involving primary data collection, and to be concluded within four weeks of commencement.

6.Expected outputs

The Consultant will be expected to deliver:

- a) An inception report (maximum 30 pages) outlining the proposed methodology, work plan, and time-frame.
- b) A comprehensive analytical report (maximum 45 pages) presenting findings, analysis, and actionable recommendations.
- c) A policy brief (maximum 3 pages) highlighting key findings and multi-level actionable recommendations to address behavioural influences in local-level investment decision-making.
- d) Presentation slides for stakeholder validation and dissemination of findings.

7.Submission of applications

Eligible individuals/firm with demonstrable understanding of water security's conceptual framework and applicability in Tanzanian context, and expertise in gender, environmental sciences, climate change, water resource management and ideally behavioral science should submit both Technical and financial proposals (not more than 15 pages each), demonstrating adequate capacities and experience in analytical desk reviews, climate change studies, budget analysis, gender analysis, in water related sectors.

Applications should be submitted via email to info@shahidiwamaji.org, copy to abeldugange@shahidiwamaji.org. Deadline for submission is on 27th February 2026 at 5:00 PM. Please include CVs of key personnel and examples of previous written work.

8.Timeline and Duration of the Assignment

The assignment will be completed within 30 calendar days from the contract signing date, with 25 payable working days. During the recruitment process, the Consultant will propose a detailed work schedule, which will be reviewed and agreed upon with Shahidi wa Maji.