



Call for expression
of interest:

Water4Africa Partnership Program

HELIOZ is inviting expressions of interest from organizations – profit and non-profit – to join its Water4Africa Partnership Program. The program will leverage climate finance to support rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa to overcome water, health, climate and economic challenges in a sustainable manner. Organizations with a changemaker mindset and an established project portfolio (existing and pipeline) are particularly encouraged to apply.

Program mission

According to UNICEF, 785 million people today do not have basic access to water. Africa, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa, is affected by lack of water infrastructure and climate change. Girls, women, and people living with disabilities are impacted the most, with negative consequences on health, nutrition, education and chances of transcending the cycle of poverty.

To tackle this challenge, HELIOZ sets itself a mission to provide 1 million people with safe drinking water. It intends to do so by launching several country projects in the course of 2023 providing rural communities with access to safe drinking water, while promoting additional economic and social outcomes. The projects will leverage carbon finance, and where available, public finance as funding mechanisms.

HELIOZ is inviting organizations in the region to jointly work on the preparation and implementation of several country projects, each expected to assist between 15,000-30,000 households for a period of 5 years (with the possibility of extension).

Project objectives

Country projects will deliver on several SDGs, while leveraging water disinfection technology developed by HELIOZ called WADI.

WADI is a household-level water disinfection device based on solar water disinfection. Approved by the WHO as an effective method for household water treatment, WADI enables household access to safe drinking water (SDG 6). It provides real-time information to its users about whether unsafe water collected from surface areas (ponds, rivers, ground, unfiltered rainwater etc.) is free from e-coli bacteria and other pathogens, and is hence safe to drink.

The technology has a catalytic impact on the environment and communities. The change from the common method of boiling water for safety to the use of WADI leads to a reduction of CO2 emissions since no wood or coal has to be burned (SDG 13). Communities in poor regions with no accessible method of water disinfection at all, including water boiling, gain access to an environmentally friendly method allowing them to meet their human development needs. Water-borne diseases are drastically reduced, resulting in substantial savings for families otherwise spent on healthcare (SDG 3). Indoor air pollution is reduced and the burden on local forests lowered due to the decreasing need for firewood (SDG 15). Additionally, communities benefit from economic empowerment, greater gender equality and climate resilience through project interventions tailored to specific contexts.

Funding approach

The projects will be primarily funded with carbon finance. Such funding is accessible on the so-called voluntary carbon markets (VCMs), which match the demand for and offer of verified emission reductions. To secure funding on the market, projects need to meet the quality criteria of internationally recognized certification programs for climate projects, uphold compliance with the Paris Agreement and comply with national climate policy and legislation.

Additional funding sources and local contributions (financial and in-kind) will be identified by partners to cover selected project activities.

Specific funding arrangements will depend on the results of due diligence in each country/project. The following process is envisioned:

Phase 1 – Due diligence and project proposal development:

HELIOZ and the partner will share costs for preparatory research and planning activities: (1) identification of a promising country region meeting HELIOZ criteria for site selection, (2) implementation of a baseline research study following HELIOZ methodology, and (3) development and tailoring of project activities and budget.

Phase 2- Project implementation:

HELIOZ will take the lead in securing core project funding for a period of 5 years. Partner budget will be negotiated as part of project proposal development. Please note that, generally, the purpose of HELIOZ funds is to cover project-related activities and not organizational contributions.



Call for expression of interest

This call aims to initiate partnerships for the development and implementation of several project proposals. We encourage organizations across all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to submit their interest following instructions below.

Instructions for interested parties:

1. Prepare answers to the following questions (not more than 500 words):
 - Why is your organization interested in the Water4Africa Partnership Program?
 - Which values, areas of expertise and innovations will your organization bring to the program?
 - Specifically on climate resilience and adaptation, what activities have you previously implemented or propose to implement?
 - Which of your projects exemplify best these points and what impacts have they generated?
2. Prepare answers to questions in annex 1 and 2 for us to have a better idea about your organization, and to receive your suggestions on a site selection for a project following the site selection criteria.

Expressions of interest should be sent to Water4Africa@helioz.org by February 28, 2023.

What happens after your submission?

Applications will be screened by HELIOZ and top applicants will be invited to an interview. Successful organizations will join a collaborative process of project proposal development during Spring 2023.

What attributes does the HELIOZ team offer in a partnership?

- We bring expertise in the field of water disinfection and development of high-integrity and high-impact climate projects. We are a full-service provider – from concept development to implementation and impact assessment.
- We are committed to innovation and our base pillars are water for all, sustainable project design and long-lasting SDG impact.
- We have an international project portfolio and an emerging community of practice. HELIOZ Group has entities in Austria and India, and our project information can be accessed on our website, Gold Standard Impact Registry and annual report.
- We are an international dedicated team with a changemaker mindset and diverse skillsets and expertise including project development, technology development, international development and entrepreneurship.
- We value our partners as our co-creators. Together we learn, assess, and identify solutions to best serve project beneficiaries.

What kind of attributes are we ideally looking for in your organization?

- Profit or not-for-profit organization based in the project country and having physical and cultural proximity to a potential region/district,
- Experience working on innovations in water access and other WASH topics, livelihood improvement, economic empowerment, climate resilience or adaptation, or similar,
- Experience working on monitoring and evaluation activities, including survey implementation,
- Local and international network involving key decision-makers at the policy and community level,
- Diversified, well-resourced project portfolio (existing and/pipeline),
- Participation of women in leadership/management, and commitment to diversity,
- Changemaker mindset and strong problem-solving attitude.

Contact

We thank you for considering a partnership with HELIOZ.

In case of questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:
Water4Africa@helioz.org

On following pages:

- Annex 1: Partner profile
- Annex 2: Partner proposal for project region

Annex 1: Partner profile

Please provide us with the following information about your organization:

1. Name of the organization / legal form
2. Primary Contact Person
3. Address / Telephone
4. ZIP-Code / City / Country
5. Email / Homepage / Social Media
6. Membership in national or international umbrella organization
7. Number of employees (by type and gender)
8. Number of field offices and locations
9. List policies of the organization dealing with corruption, child protection, employee rights, etc.
10. What is the organization's mission and its long-term objectives?
11. What are the main sectors the organization is working in?
12. What are your main organizational (and project) Key Performance Indicators?
13. Have you implemented projects at household level? If so, how many HHs have you reached?
14. Have you previously worked with water technologies? What kind?
15. Have you previously implemented surveys? How big was the sample size?
16. What are external/internal changes and challenges facing your organization?
17. Does your organization use any open source or internal applications for project management, tracking and M/E?
18. What are the principal sources of the organization's funds?
19. List all active projects, their funding sources and total budgets
20. List all projects in pipeline, their funding sources and total budgets



Annex 2: Project region proposal

Please suggest project regions following these basic feasibility criteria:

- **Size:** 15,000-30,000 households within the area meeting the characteristics below.
- **Water infrastructure:** site is completely disconnected from improved water infrastructure or has very limited access. There are no foreseeable plans to change this.
- **Characteristics and challenges of HHs:**
 - Complete or almost complete dependence on unimproved water sources
 - Dependence on unsafe water sources leading to waterborne diseases due to microbiological contamination
 - Other than water boiling (using woody biomass), no other water disinfection method or technology available
 - Traditional cooking methods (three-stone cookstoves, other conventional cookstoves and similar)
 - Vulnerable communities with limited access to basic services
 - Water supply throughout the year can be managed by communities without relying on water tankers supplying water
 - Address in several villages, which are easy to access and relatively close to each other to ensure efficient distribution and household monitoring

Based on the criteria above, we invite you to suggest 2-3 regions in your country and provide the following information about each of them. Please indicate data sources for each answer. We will review these data and assess eligibility for due diligence process.

1. Name of regions
2. Distance between the regions (km)

For each region:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Total household number or population size (#) | 7. Ongoing and planned Government and NGO programs in the WASH sector |
| 2. Population with access to improved water sources for drinking water (%) | 8. Main cooking method |
| 3. Population dependent on unimproved water sources for drinking water (%) | 9. Main water stressors |
| 4. Main types of improved water sources | 10. Size of the area (km ²) |
| 5. Main types of unimproved water sources | 11. Prevalence of water-borne diseases (%) |
| 6. Government strategy for addressing water issues in the region | 12. Other key aspects describing the area |