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| Danish organisation | Engineers Without Borders Denmark (EWB-DK) |
| Title of the intervention | The Civil Society Fund - Development Intervention |
| Partner name(s) | Social Enterprise Development Sierra Leone  (SEND)  World Hope International Sierra Leone (WHI-SL) |
| Amount applied for | DKK 3,890,982 |
| Country(ies) | Sierra Leone |
| Period (# of months) | 30 months |

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

National Adaptation Plan - NAP

Kenema District WASH Committee - KDWASHC

World Hope International Sierra Leone WHI-SL

Social Enterprise Development Sierra Leone – SEND

Engineers without Borders Denmark – EWB-DK

Health Development Committee - HDC

Internet of Things – IoT

Advisory Committee (AC)

Project Management Group (PMG)

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# **Executive summary** Categorized as one of the country's poorest districts, the people of the rural communities in Kenema, Sierra Leone cannot pay for the healthcare required when flooding causes latrines to overflow and pollute wells, provoking outbreaks of cholera and malaria, and other diseases. They do not have insurance to cover the loss of property due to storms or flooding and, are highly dependent on farming and have few alternative livelihood options when their only animal drowns in the flood, when drought kills their crop for the year, or they cannot sell produce at the market due to flooded feeder roads. They do not have the political clout to ask why their country's early warning system did not warn them of likely flooding or why their local politicians do not address the climate induced risk in district development planning. The present initiative seeks to help the communities to adapt to the new climate hazard reality and to serve as examples country wide.

The current initiative focuses on the harmful effects of the changing patterns and levels of rainfall and with water identified as being the natural hazard that, in the future, will impact livelihood in Sierra Leone the most. As livelihood, health and water are distinctly linked, the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities will be used as leverage and an entry point for a more climate resilient livelihood at the community level. The initiative’s citizen-driven approach maps and subsequently addresses the negative impact in each of the participating communities. The information from the community level and citizen engagement will be used to feed into district-level risk mapping/assessment and provide the basis for systematic planning and prioritizing the district's resources and development plans with citizen participation and civic engagement. The bottom-up approach is also used as a policy influencer and to demonstrate, on a broader national platform, how civil society can engage and be reckoned as an agent of long-lasting positive change concerning poverty, fragility, and livelihood, as the initiative will provide examples "pulled" directly from the 50 communities involved. The initiative takes as its point of departure the positive results created in the formerly funded CISU project *Democratic and Participator Sector Governing Institutions – Civil Society Engagement in Water Sector Management, Kenema District* through which models of organization and community-led development around WASH issues have demonstrated very positive results concerning the ability to both organize and take the leadership in community development initiatives, but also on how to engage in district WASH governance with civil society forming part of the coordination and policy implementing entity, Kenema District WASH Committee (KDWASHC).

A small pilot project will serve as bridging between the recently completed project and present initiative through the development and test of participatory climate risk assessment tools at community level. The primary strategies applied to react to the challenges outlined above is based on 1) mainstreaming of climate adaptation into actual service delivery at the community level and into district policy/governance, provision of climate robust WASH infrastructure (strategic service delivery), organization and capacity building of civil society, strengthening of democratic WASH sector governance and finally through influencing national policy-making from below – based on empiric evidence on citizen driven positive change and climate adaptation towards national levels. The initiative is implemented by a consortium of highly skilled national NGOs (SEND and WHI-SL) and international partner EWB-DK combining experience in community-based mobilization on WASH, climate adaptation and civil society advocacy. The initiative will introduce a novel approach with IoT – data transmission and private sector engagement to promote climate robust WASH service delivery.

**1.Objective and relevance**

**1.1 What is the main purpose of the intervention, including challenges that need to be addressed?**

Sierra Leone has been ranked as the third most vulnerable nation after Bangladesh and Guinea Bissau to adverse climate change effects due to a high level of multi-dimensional fragility. Present intervention targets one of the most basic but neglected rights that is heavily affected by climate change - the right to safe and clean water and sanitation. This is a fundamental human right that is denied to a vast segment of the population in Sierra Leone. The interplay of poverty and climate effects is exacerbated through low institutional capacity, lack of funds, and lack of cross-sector partnerships to manage the water sector towards robustness and future access to safe water for the whole population. The initiative addresses low institutional capacity from a bottom approach and directly impact the population in the 50 involved communities. And it will promote cross-sector partnerships by placing civil society as the principal agent of change working with WASH sector governance institutions and the private sector. During the last couple of years, the country has initiated the developed an important policy and planning platform on climate adaptation. However, it has not yet turned into action due to the factors mentioned above. The present initiative seeks to provide knowledge and a shared platform for action from the local level and establish citizen-driven examples of best practices in making the livelihood of the population in the Kenema district more resilient in the light of the already enhanced climate hazards affecting livelihood negatively.

**1.2. Results of former interventions and the major challenges?** This intervention is motivated by the enhanced negative effect of climate change identified during the partners' previous work on WASH democratic governance in the Kenema district (2018-2021). Climate adaptation and robustness has not been part of the strategy of the former interventions as the primary focus was to secure access to safe wate and to consolidate the Kenema District WASH Committee (KDWASHC) as the functional main platform for cross sector alignment and civic participation from community level in Kenema district. The KDWASHC is a coordination forum where all government agencies, civil society and local NGOs working on WASH issues in the district meet to share information and experiences, thus developing action points, building on best practices for improving water and sanitation in the district. This was successfully achieved and on a national scale, the District has become a reference point as a relatively well functioning space for civil engagement in WASH sector prioritisation and coordination. To a large degree, the former intervention has also reached its goal of the WASH KDWASHC becoming the main point of engagement between national strategies on WASH and the District and community level plans and interventions. Another significant result is the mobilisation of twenty-six communities by facilitating them in establishing Health Development Committees (HDCs) and WASH sub-committers with the required by-laws. The key roles of the HDCs are to plan, manage and maintain WASH infrastructure. The committees which meet monthly have an equal representation of men and women. A requirement for this is that the communities establish user fee payment, which was introduced in all former engaged communities and experiencing positive results of joint and planned actions at the community level. Twenty-six communities have been ensured access to safe drinking water via community water points (hand-dug wells or drilled solar-powered systems). All have, with varying degrees of success, established governing structures and introduced user fees (in order to ensure self-governance and economic sustainability of the water systems). Some of the communities has even established other income generation initiatives as a spinoff from the WASH mobilization conducted in the community. Present initiative supports the functionality of the KDWASHC’s coordinator position, however in recognition of the importance of operational support from the coordinator initial discussion has been initiated late 2019 on its financial sustainability through membership fee.

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Description automatically generated E**xperience demonstrates that:**

* Communities can organise around water supply.
* Civil society can institutionalise user fee payments to fund maintenance and repair and contribute with a small investment in wash infrastructure.
* Increased Governance and citizen participation can be fostered through cross-sector coordination space (District WASH Committee).

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**However, challenge at community level - based on experience are:**

* Community and district level actors lack skills and knowledge to address the increasing WASH vulnerability because of climate change, with excessive and changed rainfall being the main natural hazard).
* Despite decades of effort to build technical capacity, civil society (as in organised communities) does in fact not generate sufficient skills to maintain and repair water points or other infrastructure.
* No link exists between the buyer (community) and the seller (small-scale technical service provider); hence, a market mechanism to promote external needed service to infrastructure is lacking.
* Lack of knowledge (in all strategic actors) to integrate a climate adaptation focus on the WASH management.
* Lack of standardized approach to WASH governance (at both community and district level) hinders effective and transparent management of the sector targeting and ensuring climate robustness.
* No systemized approach to local knowledge sharing on the impact of climate change exists – documentation of incidents or effects.

This inactive is taking the above listed challenges into consideration and aligning them with national incipient work on climate adaptation, combined with an increased policy focus on market-driven service delivery, as stated in the national WASH policy[[1]](#footnote-1) and also the recent UNICEF supported strategy on Sanitation and Hygiene. Based on that, the aim is to ensure climate sensitive robust WASH governance and improve robustness of actual WASH infrastructure through building a bridge between national policy level and actual implementation through civil society involvement. Hence, the initiative will facilitate and support the “bridge building” between the users (population) and the private service providers as a central element in sustainable and climate robust WASH infrastructure. Climate change is increasingly impacting the country negatively and must hence be addressed fiscally and technically; however, the deficit of institutional, economic, and technical capacity in the country makes it pivotal that civil society combined with the private sector is also engaged. Hence, the present initiative builds on the partners' former experience with bottom-up community driven approaches both in the WASH sector and in promoting community-driven climate adaptation and the evaluation, lessened learned and data from former initiative has informed present initiative.

**1.3 Describe the context of the intervention:**

**1.3.1 National context – Sierra Leone a multi-dimensional fragility context.** Sierra Leone, although resource-rich, is a low-income transition country with a GDP per capita of US$510 in 2017. There are 16 ethnic groups, but two dominate (Temne and Mende), accounting for two-third of the population. Sierra Leone's state of economic development needs to be understood as a function of the country's context and structure dominated by a decade of Civil War between 1991 and 2002. However, it has been able to maintain security in the aftermath of the end of the United Nations (UN) Mission in 2006. On the political front, in 2007, Sierra Leone became one of the few countries to achieve a democratic transition of Government and establish a sustainable pluralistic, democratic system.It held the most recent tripartite general elections in March 2018. The elections were relatively peaceful, and a new administration headed by President Julius Maada Bio came into power. According to the latest Integrated Household Survey, poverty remains high, with a poverty rate of 56.8% in 2018. The extreme poverty rate is estimated at 12.9% and a food poverty rate of 54.5%. Poverty is concentrated in the rural areas in Sierra Leone. The country ranks 184 out of 189 countries on the Global Human Development Index, which was 0.419 in 2017. Sierra Leone has not fully recovered from the twin shocks of the 2014-2017 Ebola crisis and a slump in global commodity prices that severely affected the economy and created political uncertainties. The country is challenged by a high infrastructure deficit, weak governance institutions, low human capacity, high youth unemployment and underemployment estimated to be around 70%, limited government fiscal space, weak private sector, and lack of economic diversification. These challenges can best be described as primary drivers of country fragility, hence the need for a multi-faceted approach to strengthening country climate resilience. Actions by the Government in addressing fragility in Sierra Leone remain weak, illustrated through the low score of overall Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) fragility score for 2018 is 3.219 (on average) out of 6 score points.[[2]](#footnote-2) The relatively low score is because, although current fragility pressures are well known to state and non-state actors, they are not adequately addressed and consequently persist despite the existence of institutional structures for addressing most of them. [[3]](#footnote-3) According to The African Development Bank, Civil Society has proven to be an essential facilitator for addressing multi-dimensional fragility and a more resilient and inclusive growth trajectory because CSOs are closer to the population and understand the community and local dynamics that are drivers of social, economic, poverty and fragility issues. Sierra Leone should therefore enhance dialogue with CSOs and reinforce dialogue with the Government.The present initiative operates at the intersection of the physical environment (infrastructure), the social system (civil society), and the impact of the ecological /social-ecological context as in the climate-induced hazards- all drivers of fragility and change, but also the entry point for enhanced robustness. Implementing adaptation options focusing on technical capacity building of all stakeholders, improved infrastructure, increasing organisation, participation and reducing inequalities will improve the livelihood of the communities, hence benefit the most vulnerable parts of the population.

**1.3.2 Context of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as entry point for climate resilience.** Agriculture has to date been the main entry point of climate resilience activities in Kenema and all of Sierra Leone, and experience of WASH climate adaptation is limited. However, relevance is high, as water is the main hazard identified to influence livelihood negatively in the future. Resilient WASH programming helps ensure that WASH infrastructure and services are sustainable and resilient to climate related risks. However, in order to address problems of access to water and sanitation in a relevant and climate sensitive manner, it is crucial to identify climate related vulnerability of the WASH infrastructure, establish whether the traditional approach / construction inadvertently increases vulnerability, determine to what extent the community has coped with the risks, and how they from a bottom -up and citizen-driven approach can adjust and take the risks into consideration. Water and sanitation are among the highest priorities for the Government of Sierra Leones's National Development Plan 2019 – 2023, however, there is very little experience of working with climate robust WASH. According to a national survey (2017), wells are increasingly running dry during parts of year due to changed weather patterns and outbreaks of cholera and water borne diseases are frequent. In general, progress has been made in access to water in rural areas from approximately 25% in year 2000 to 47% in 2017. To reach the SDG targets of 100% in year 2030, this annual rate of increase need to double, and to make the future WASH infrastructure sustainable and reliable, the effects of climate changes must be factored in. However, sustainability not only rests on the construction of safe and more climate robust infrastructure, it also rests on the ability to manage and maintain infrastructure. At an estimated 28.9% of the water systems, it takes more than a year to get them repaired and on 60.5% of the systems the response time is more than a month. In general, payment of the user fee – a pre-condition for maintenance, is a serious problem with 89.4% of the population on average in the country not paying for water, this is, in our local experience, due to lack of management and organisation. EWB-DK project data from the communities with whom we have worked during the previous community WASH project clearly indicates that mobilization and organisation has a very positive effect. 25 out of 26 communities mobilised and organised around their WASH infrastructure had established savings for the water systems halfway through the project phase. This is a remarkably different level of user fee payment than the average national level. The conclusion is that, through mobilization, training and organisational support, the communities are indeed able to address and engage in payment of the user fee as a crucial prerequisite for sustainability. Within 6 months, half of the communities (13) increased their savings. This clearly indicates that, through strategic work, institution, and capacity building, it is possible to mobilise local communities to establish user fee payments for the water even in some of the poorest communities in Sierra Leone, which has enabled them to maintain and repair the systems when required.

**1.3.3 Local context: Kenema district.** The rate of extreme poverty in the Kenema district is amongst the highest in the country (24.2%), which is clearly accelerating the effects of COVID-19. The high level of poverty underlines the fragile state the population is exposed to due to a lack of ability to cope with the effects of climate changes and thereby reduces their access to safe water and sanitation. In the Kenema district, it is estimated that only about 22 % of the population has access to safe water (concentrated mainly in the urban centre of Kenema[[4]](#footnote-4)). Climate risk/needs mapping, prioritization, and future planning in the WASH sector is urgently required as the health of the population is negatively impacted by the effects of the predominant climate hazard in Sierra Leone - excessive rainfall, which destroys and/or leads to contamination of the scarce water sources, not to mention destruction of other infrastructure, houses, and crops. The health risks induced by flooding, changed rain patterns and insufficient WASH infrastructure only adds to the burden of an already very fragile health system, and cholera outbreaks is an annual recurrent incident. Based on the experience of the partners involved in the project, civic participation in enhancing resilience of WASH actions in the District should be “hosted” in the incipient space for cross-sector engagement hence, the KDWASHC. Building on existing spaces of engagement adaptation efforts should start with a systematic assessment of climate risks at community level and feed information into an overall district level strategy. The key argument is that many of the necessary adaptation measures, such as local cross-sector capacity building, improved siting, design, and construction of water points, changes in latrine design or construction of drains/canals are relatively simple measures if capacity exists to implement. However, if no data on the particularly vulnerable communities exists, if knowledge is not enhanced and shared in all sectors, and if the few available funds are prioritised randomly, resources will not be used efficiently. The present initiative seeks to address capacity building across sectors and from a participatory platform for climate robust WASH management in the District spearheaded in 50 communities. The institutional platform to work from at community level is the traditional and countrywide well-known institution of the community’s Health Development Committees (HDCs), a volunteer-based community entity managing health-related issues at the community level and a recognised entry point for external relations on health. A subcommittee is traditionally delegated with the mandate to oversee and manage the community water points. At the district level, EWB-DK and partners have a well-established relationship with the KDWASHC which oversees and coordinates all WASH activities between the strategic partners in the WASH sector (representatives from line ministries, district-level representatives).

**1.4 Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising to advance social justice.**

According to the CIVICUS rating,[[5]](#footnote-5) civil society in Sierra Leone is under continued and reinforced pressure by the Government. The present initiative argues for a bottom-up approach in promoting democratic governance, aiming to advance unity, cohesion, peace, and socioeconomic development, which is characterized by the absence of legitimized norms governing state-society relationships. This builds on the assumption that civil society, through the power of example, becomes the "broker" and agent of new approaches, seeking institutionalization from below to push and promote democratic governance. With Kenema district having some of the highest poverty rates in the country, extending and securing access to sustainable and climate robust water and sanitation services plays a crucial role in poverty reduction. Households benefit through a range of health, educational, nutritional, and broader livelihood impacts; local, regional, and national economies benefit from greater economic activity, spending and investment; over the longer term, households and economies benefit through greater resilience to climate change. In monetary terms, the numbers are compelling. Combined water supply and sanitation interventions have a return of at least US$4.3 for every dollar invested [[6]](#footnote-6)if services can be sustained in the face of multiple risks, including that posed by climate change. Data from the former intervention clearly indicated that through systematic mobilization and capacity building the communities engaged in the initiative will develop a stronger platform to address local needs on social development. In the 26 “old” communities, forming part of the targeted communities, additional community driven projects such as saving towards a health post, community casava farming and other types of initiatives have emerged because of the mobilization and experience jointly created through using WASH as leverage for community driven development. Hence the initiative will not only improve on the specific WASH climate robustness with its direct livelihood improvement in health and economy, but also seek to use it as a leverage and entry point for a wider community mobilisation towards a bottom-up approach for reaching social justice through activism, organisation, and joint actions. Late 2020 the country initiated the development of the National Climate Adaptation Plan (NAP) under the auspice of the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The advocacy “pillar” under present initiative will direct it efforts at introducing experience and input from the involved communities into the NAP process, as it is an opportune entry point for the advancement of social justice in a climate adaptation perspective.

**1.5 What climatic and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it?** The initiative responds directly at the challenges facing the country’s water and sanitation sector which are aggravated by rapid population growth (especially in the urban areas), environmental degradation and climate change impacts, and the virtual absence of land use planning capacity. Water and sanitation-related natural disasters such as landslides and flooding due to inadequate solid waste management practices and the encroachment of protected forest areas are common in densely settled urban areas. Water and sanitation development is further undermined by incomplete or outdated policies and regulations, weak enforcement, fragmented mandates, and poor coordination among national sector stakeholders. Inadequate monitoring undermines accountability in the sector. The existing water supply and sanitation infrastructure is dilapidated and mostly out of use. Technical and logistical capacity constraints are the primary sources of the low absorption capacity and low efficiency and effectiveness of addressing the challenges.The overarching development challenge for Sierra Leone is to overcome its deep-rooted, multi-faceted fragility and to strengthen country resilience. Basically, the National Development Plan 2019-2023 is about strengthening country resilience and reducing the level of fragility. Present initiative will use the partners local experience in community driven WASH engagement to respond to the climate induced challenges from a bottom-up and citizen-driven approach and establish empirical community and civic-driven climate adaptation experiences on the WASH sector. At the community level, it specifically includes participatory assessments of the infrastructure such as housing, roads, drainage, water facilities, and latrines and identification of how present and new infrastructure can become more climate-robust by e.g., adjustment of design, maintenance, use or location.

# **2. The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)**

**2.1 Experiences, capacities, and resources of participant partners) as well as other actors**

**Engineers without Borders Denmark (EWB-DK)** Access to water and sanitation (UN sustainable development goal #6) within democratic governance is one of EWB-DK's strategic core areas. Since 2009, EWB-DK has gained substantial experience in implementing local community Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) projects mostly in the African context and has worked in the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Kenema district in Sierra Leone for more than ten years. Through the development efforts, EWB-DK seeks to build stronger and more resilient communities to organise and mobilise themselves towards their own further development. EWB-DK bases the activities on delivering strategic services and encompasses community development to focus on achieving sustainable changes in targeted groups' behaviour to permanently improve their livelihood. To achieve this institutional strengthening and capacity enhancement of institutions and governance structures are an integrated element of all interventions. So far, EWB-DK and SEND have supported 26 communities in the Kenema district. Due to climate change, several of the already vulnerable communities are exposed to more severe and recurrent flooding. Therefore, climate risk assessments, mitigation measures, and climate robust WASH design and infrastructure are areas in which EWB-DK is gradually engaging. Together with World Hope International Sierra Leone (WHI-SL), EWB-DK is implementing a participatory community-based climate resilience project in the slum area of Freetown that was devastated by the landslide that took place in 2017. EWB-DK has during 2020 implemented a 'Globalt Fokus' financed masterclass on the nexus between poverty and climate change, where the Freetown project was one of the cases. The initiative invited the participants, including the WHI SL team, to analyse and identify how to address the interplay between poverty and climate change from different thematic platforms. In Sierra Leone, EWB-DK also holds a long-term partnership with a school for youths living with a disability – promoting the right to education for all and with the Engineering Association of Sierra Leone S.L.I.E. - an important platform for advocacy on sustainability in technical poverty alleviation. EWB-DK utilizes the technical knowledge and expertise of its more than 250 active and engaged members (volunteers) in the design and implementation of community based sustainable its projects [see EWB-DK Strategy 2020-2025](https://iug.dk/media/108519/sdgs-are-our-benchmark-strategy-2020-2025.pdf) on our approach to sustainability.

**Social Enterprise Development (SEND***)* Sierra Leone is a non-profit national NGO registered in Sierra Leone since 2000 and has a staff of more than 70 persons. SEND has a strong profile in community mobilisation, gender equality, improved livelihood, a rights-based approach to WASH, and capacity enhancement of governance structures at the community and district level. Together with several international partners such as Welt Hunger Hilfe, Irish Aid, and UK Aid, it has implemented many community-based projects in several districts, including Kenema where its main office is located. It engages in strong cooperation with the authorities at both district and community levels. In partnership with EWB-DK, SEND has been supporting the KDWASHC and the HDC/WASH committees in the 26 communities to strengthen WASH governance, including maintenance and support to the WASH infrastructure. SEND’s approach is to facilitate the establishment of HDCs through the building of organisational capacity and supports the community in realising direct and needs based joint interventions to improved livelihood. SEND also “nurses” the engagement from community level towards District structures through its mobilization and facilitation and assists the individual community (wards persona and HDC) in its negotiation/presentation of petitions to district entities, including, amongst others, the WASH Committee.

**World Hope International Sierra Leone (WHI SL)** WHI-SL has been working throughout Sierra Leone since 1997 to address WASH; health and nutrition, education, and early childhood development; agriculture, rural and economic development. Today, WHI-SL employs more than 100 local staff including water engineers, hydrologists, community mobilizers, and other required competences related to WASH. WHI-SL has proven to be a significant national player with a national board in Sierra Leone, strong local networks, and a track record working directly with civil society structures to establish community-based solutions, as well as implementing the required technical solution. WHI applies a holistic approach to tackling poverty through engagement and partnership with grassroots actors, private sector, government agencies, and other NGOs to develop efficient and sustainable solutions. Its strength is the combination of strategic service delivery, community engagement, and bottom-up participatory processes as applied in current joint EWB-DK interventions on climate adaptation in slum areas of Freetown. WHI SL are taking part in local coordination of water and emergency response initiatives including training and supervision of community WASH committees in Freetown. In recent years, and in cooperation with EWB-DK, WHI-SL has also been working with local communities in identifying, planning and implementing bottom-up climate resilient solutions - both with regard to WASH and on a broader scale, and its highly skilled team has provided access to safe water in many rural communities’ country wide.

**Other (non-implementing) national strategic partners:** In 2019, EWB-DK initiated a partnership with the **Sierra Leone Institution of Engineering (S.L.I.E.)** regarding organisational development, including support to a membership-based strategy process and focus on engineering for the SDG's. Through S.L.I.E.’s experience in engagement with, and direct access to several government bodies S.L.I.E has the potential of playing an active role in advocating for the solutions and lessons learned from the climate robust WASH project in Kenema.

**2.2 Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners and how these experiences have fed constructively into the development of the proposed intervention.**

The platform of implementation is based on a consortium driven by the unique competencies held by each partner and aiming at cross organisations learning.

**WHI-SL and EWB-DK** have worked together over the past three years. The first joint project was the emergency response construction of water points in Freetown and the renovation of rural community health posts. In general, the interventions developed in this partnership has a strong community-based focus and actively involves CBOs, particular youth groups, as seen in joint emergency WASH intervention in the aftermath of the mudslides and flooding in Freetown in 2017, in a current joint CISU funded climate adaptation project as well as in a completed COVID-19 DERF funded project on the water supply to health clinics in Freetown. In these projects, WHI-SL has proved to be highly professional and technically competent in all aspects of WASH infrastructure. In another project in Freetown, WHI-SL, in cooperation with EWB-DK, is also supporting a local community organisation (National Skills Pool) conducting a 700+ household baseline on climate change (perception, impact, and required mitigation measures), participatory community-centred action planning, and implementation of several interventions such as tree planting and design and construction of canals in poor and vulnerable communities. In combination with their willingness and acknowledgment of the importance of becoming a relevant actor within climate change adaptation, WASH technical expertise and based on an already solid working experience with EWB-DK, WHI-SL is the ideal local partner for providing strategic service delivery - climate-sensitive WASH infrastructure at the community level applying participatory and bottom-up methods of engagement. WHI-SL will also, through its strong network, be able to facilitate advocacy for the importance of risk analysis, climate robust WASH solutions through certified service providers.

**EWB-DK and SEND** have known each other for several years as both have been working with local communities in Kenema district on establishing WASH and, since January 2020, have been partners on the WASH project, including the 26 communities in Kenema and the District, and with support from DERF COVID-19 funding provided relief to the most vulnerable households in these communities. In 2021, the partners will also conduct an evaluation of a previous income generation project on community solar mobile charging stations as well as finalize joint capacity building project on Core Humanitarian Standards. SEND has proved to be a strong and reliable partner in engaging and supporting both the communities and the relevant stakeholders at the district level and ensuring the appropriate coordination and exchange of information between the involved partners. SEND has been reporting on the steadily increasingly frequent and severe flooding affecting the infrastructure and the already frail livelihoods of some of the most poor and vulnerable communities in the Kenema district and has participated in climate change fact-finding missions with the District. It has the professional capacity to strengthen organisational and governance capacity and sees an urgent need for enhancing cross-sector climate-sensitive WASH planning and execution. Through its strong network at the district and community level, SEND will also be able to facilitate advocacy for the importance of risk analysis, climate-robust WASH solutions through certified service providers. Whereas EWB-DK has previously worked with both organisations, WHI-SL and SEND have not previously cooperated or worked together. However, they have come together to design this project to realize how the strong experience of SEND in community mobilisation and Governance for WASH combined with WHI-SL's technical expertise in WASH and experience with climate mitigation measures complement each other. In joining forces with EWB-DK, this partnership will be able to pilot and implement new bottom-up approaches and solutions to climate-robust WASH planning and implementation at the community and district level, in parallel with standardizing structures and procedures based on years of experience in developing and enhancing local WASH institutions and governance.

**2.3 Describe the contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors**.

The project has one overall project responsible organisation EWB-DK, two implementing organisations (SEND and WHI SL) and tree types of strategic partners 1) traditional community structures, 2) the KDWASHC and 3) the Danish Advisory Committee (AC) directly involved.

**Overall project responsible organisation:**

***EWB-DK*** will be the international lead organisation responsible for project management, finance and administration, coordination of the two main implementing partners' inputs, facilitation of the partnership's cooperation, project monitoring, and coordination of the final evaluation. EWB-DK will contribute with knowledge on WASH infrastructure, climate adaptation, risk analysis, certification of service providers, and strategic advice from international experts on the AC. The implementation of the project will be monitored by the international project management group (PMG) comprised by the project management from EWB DK, SEND and WHI SL. facilitated by EWB-DK. Meetings are scheduled to be held on a monthly basis in order to plan joint work and asses strategies.

***Implementing organisations:***

***SEND*** will engage and coordinate with the communities and the Kenema district to focus on organisational and governance capacity enhancement, including continued community engagement and mobilization. SEND will also ensure continuous advocacy for the importance of risk analysis, climate robust WASH solutions through certified service providers and community and district level. SEND will also ensure central governance level advocacy for the importance of civil society engagement in risk analysis and climate robust WASH solutions through input to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) coordinate from the Kenema WASH committee. Due to its substantial experience in community mobilisation, advocacy work and partnership through former projects with KDWASHC SEND is mainly in charge of activities under objective 2 and 3 with an estimated budget allocation on approximately 1.5 mil. DKK.

***WHI-SL*** will - using a bottom-up and community-engaging approach - identify, design, and implement/supervise the appropriate technically sound climate robust infrastructure, assessment and recommendations of required technical capacity, and specialized training at community and district level (including the service providers). WHI-SL has developed rich experience in community-driven climate adaptation approaches in previous CISU funded projects upon which it will build in the present initiative. In contrast to SEND WHI SL is highly experienced in climate resilience community engagement (ongoing project with EWB DK) and due to its technical WASH expertise WHI SL will be responsible for the deliverance of outcomes mainly under objective 1. related to community level climate resilience (assessment and engagement of community in structural resilience related work with an estimated budget allocation on 1.7 mil. DKK. Financial administration will be governed by a specific budget and contracts signed between EWB-DK and each partner (each will manage and oversee their specific part of the budget and undergo national external audit). A joint MoU will establish the frame for the platform to work from.

***Strategic partners (non-implementing)***

**Local traditional structures:** A central strategic partner at community level is the traditional governance structures, which is a complex system of traditional local authority structures that draw their organization and legitimacy from a wide range of different systems and traditions— customary, colonial, and modern. The dominant tribe culture is Mende, which is one of the two largest ethnic groups in Sierra Leone. The chieftaincy remains the most important system of authority across rural Sierra Leone. Though criticized at times for autocratic rule, the chiefs retain a great deal of legitimacy in the eyes of ordinary Sierra Leoneans and indeed, often fill an important governance and justice gap between local communities and formal state structures. The roles of paramount chiefs can be delineated as follows (the latter three in consultation with chiefdom committees and chairmen of local courts): · uphold and maintain traditions, customs, and practices of the chiefdom · serve as custodians of land for the people of the chiefdom · settle disputes · maintain law and order · deal with land, customary, and traditional matters in the chiefdom. In practice, the chief is the primary representative of his or her chiefdom to outsiders having any dealings with the chiefdom, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The local level is of particular importance in relation to objective 1. The traditional structures will be a strategic entry point to work with the inclusion of women in local governing structures, which traditionally have a very low.

**Kenema District WASH Coordination Committee:** KDWASHC is a central strategic local partner in the project as particular objective 2 is highly linked to the institutional development of KDWASHC *“****Kenema District governing WASH structure applies participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance*** *(capacity building on national climate adaptation plan, participatory governance structures, development of district HDC’s SOPs and stands and through promotion of a market-driven service approach at community and district level in Kenema)”* The project will assist the KDWASHC to strengthen its institutional capacity and perform its role as main convener of actions related to particularly objective 2 and 3.

**International advisory committee (AC):** In alignment with the Danish official policy for international development, the present initiative seeks to involve Danish strategic partners. The University of Southern Denmark, the company Niras and one of the most influential civil society organisations in Denmark when working with access to water, namely the Danish Water Suppliers Association (Danske Vandværker), will form part of the initiative. The strategic partners will form part of the AC. Each of the partners has unique and valuable experience relating to the strategic pillars of the initiative and has committed themself to form part of an AC. Niras will make available their substantial experience and knowledge on climate adaptation in WASH infrastructure while the Danish Water Suppliers Association will share their experiences in community-driven and managed water supply with the national partners and on the ground with national strategic actors. The University of Southern Denmark’s Department of Science and Technology will support the data driven pillar and transfer knowledge on data drive monitoring of infrastructure and support the KDWASHC in the implementation, management and maintain data monitoring and the data on the functionality of the water systems. The AC will be informed through bi-annual reports from the international project management group (PMG) on project progress and holds a mandate to monitor and revise strategies implemented in project and provide input to these through biannual online meetings with the PMG.

**2.4 Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.** Over the last year, a collaboration between EWB-DK's partners in Sierra Leone has emerged not least related to interventions mitigating the negative impact of COVID-19. It is vision of the local partners and EWB-DK to strengthen collaboration by sharing their different competences, experience and networks in specific interventions. This new project combines WHI-SL's technical expertise with SEND's community engagement, advocacy, and institutional strengthening experience, both regarding WASH and working together on new areas and approaches regarding climate resilience and risk mitigation, in which WHI-SL has a long experience. WHI-SL will gain experience with SEND’s well established community mobilisation approach, advocacy and gender equality capacity building of local traditional community governance structures and civil society advocacy engagement towards district authorities, This will strengthen WHI-SL’s more technically focused approach to WASH and climate resilience in the communities where they already work. The cooperation enables SEND to integrate climate risks in their approach to WASH at both community as well at district level, and to obtain insight in WASH robust infrastructure to mitigate the increasing risks. Whereas SEND has supported the communities in having a voice at district level, not least through the KDWASHC, WHI-SL will as member of several national committees on WASH and climate related matters be instrumental in strengthening KDCWASHC’s access to and voice/influence at national level. This will strengthen the communities and the district level with regard to WASH and climate change as the project will ensure that advocacy also will include national level. To strengthen our engagement synergies, and learning between projects and partners, the initiative will, on an annual basis, bring our partners together for an end-of-year internal evaluation and learning workshop. From this project's perspective, the approach to climate risk analysis, mitigation, and commercialization of services/job creation will be relevant and potentially inspire our other projects and partners. The closer cooperation and strategic partnerships with several of EWB-DK's partners in Sierra Leone are also in line with and support the ambition of establishing a CISU supported EWB-DK program in Sierra Leone over the next couple of years where we can build further on and better utilise our partners' different yet complementary experience and expertise.

**2.5 Strengthening of the partners' relations with other actors.** It is envisaged that this intervention, in several ways, will support the strengthening of partner's relations externally. The Ministry of Health & Sanitation, with support from UNICEF, published the National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy for 2020 -2030 in 2020. From this document, it is evident that a significant task is to pilot and develop standard requirements and procedures for WASH at the community and district level. EWB-DK has worked in the Kenema district with both the District and an increasing number of communities for more than eight years. The KDWASHC is generally considered at the best functioning in Sierra Leone. This provides the ideal platform for piloting and developing procedures and best practices to establish a standard set of requirements and procedures for climate robust WASH management and planning at the local level. In addition, the experiences and lessons learned from certification of service providers and commercialisation of the sector and climate risk analysis and design and construction climate robust infrastructure, which will be new approaches to many in Sierra Leone, will be of broad interest to many stakeholders in Sierra Leone. To mention some of these, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, of Health & Sanitation and Water Resources respectively, UNICEF and other bilateral organisations, International and local NGOs, and other districts and municipalities will potentially be interested. As listed in the LFA under objective 3, the project will in different ways disseminate and share the experiences and best practices form the project, which will undoubtedly strengthen the project partners (Kenema district, municipalities, SEND, and WHI-SL) relations to the above-mentioned external stakeholders.

**3. Target groups, objectives, strategy, and expected results**

**3.1. Describe the composition of the target groups:**  **Primary target group:** More than 90% of the population in rural Kenema are small-scale subsidence farmers mainly growing rice, maize, cassava, cacao and coffee. Only 24.4% of the women have access to land in the district and as little as 14.2% of the women own land (CFSVA 2015), this in spite the fact that women provide 75% of the labour along the food value chain, from production, processing to marketing. Food insecurity is particular high in the rural areas, which is mainly explained by lack of educational opportunities (59% of adults above 15 years in Kenema are illiterate, low agricultural productivity and the absence of diversification of rural income sources, low income (1.4 million Le), no electricity as well as poor infrastructure and market access.

The community entry point of engagement is 50 HDCs/WASH committees (democratically elected by community members) (50 x 7 members =350 persons- of which approximately 50% are women) and 50 chiefs (gender 10%/90%) – chiefs are mainly male. SEND has in its approach to establish and strengthen HDC/WASH Committees and WMCs incorporated gender mainstreaming through specific ‘gender and water management’ trainings both at district level and in all 26 communities and have ensured equal representation of men and women in these committees. To strengthen the WMCs in ensuring sustainable water supply through the collection of user fees SEND has trained them on establishing Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA) and established VSLA groups (6 men, 6 women) in each community. However, this is taken beyond WASH, as it is also used as a social fund where the community member can get small loans with the purpose of improving household incomes by engaging in new small-scale income generating activities to enhance their resilience and livelihood.

**Other primary target groups are:** 30 Ward Development Committees (WDC) that represent the communities at the monthly Kenema District Council (KDC) meetings The combination of “old” and experienced communities with newly engaged communities is envisioned to create a “pull” effect between the positive results and changes obtained in the former initiative in the district – hence the consolidation of democratic and participatory structures in rural WASH management. Hence, the strategic focus is on transfer of knowledge from “old” and mobilised communities to newly engaged and less organised communities. The other primary target group is the members of Kenema District WASH Committee (KDWASHC) headed by the Water Directorate (WD), a sector under the District Council and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation. It holds monthly meetings and in addition to representatives from the WD, EHU and other district departments, CSO and NGOs participating in WASH related activities are members. At present, there are 15 active members. The key role of the committee is to coordinate the activities in the district to avoid overlap, to ensure the activities are aligned with the district WASH plan and the National WASH policy, exchange lessons learned and monitor progress, including monitoring visits to the communities and provide input for future planning on the issue. 10 persons from private sector, service providers that will be trained and certified in delivering construction and maintenance services to the communities based on structured contracts and clear agreements. This will ensure more skilled providers that will serve a number of communities and thereby be able to secure a more stable income, which will be an incentive them to stay in Kenema district rather than pursuing better opportunities elsewhere as has happened in the past. 20 students and teachers at Eastern Polytechnic College in Kenema to be enrolled in the initiative, which will give them hands-on experience in conducting climate risk assessments, and on how to mitigate the impact on WASH through more climate robust community driven interventions.

**Secondary target group:** The total population in Kenema, comprising 610,000 persons and the participants’ national seminars, 60 persons, and in the NAP process (to be determined) that are expected to benefit from the experienced gained through this intervention in particular with regard to integrating climate risks into the district WASH planning, privatisation of WASH service provision, digitalisation of monitoring of water points, and standardisation of procedures for planning and implementation Climate robust WASH.

**3.2 Describe how the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention**

As the main and largest target group, the members of the community HDCs (50 x 7 persons) in combination with the Wards (30) will receive training and organisational support and build capacity to identify and address community needs related to climate adaptation and WASH. As in the previous project in Kenema gender mainstreaming will be addressed specifically as well as crosscutting in all training and interventions, refer to section 3.2.1. The main bulk of the training and activity of the initiative will be at community level to localize activities and not make excessive use of the time resources of the involved persons. Training and organisational capacity, building and other related activities will be based on an empiric and evidence based learning process, hence training and capacity building will be conducted when working or addressing the actual needs of the community to ensure the relevance and transfer of knowledge directly into the community. Under the management of HDC’s WASH committee, the community will, for example, conduct a needs assessment involving all the community members, negotiate with service providers on small infra structure projects, and be trained in management and conflict resolution at community level and how to formulate specific petitions and demands towards district level WASH governing structures. A key and strategic activity will be support to community management of a small seed fund (200 USD each community) in order er to build up community project management skills on small scale climate adaptation and induce ownership and empowerment through own success in activities managed by and in community. The community will also be engaging in larger adaptation projects however the economy and contract of these funds will be managed by the consortium. The engagement from the community (civil society) level towards the district level is through the representation of the community ward person and engagement is also through the regular visits by representatives of the KDWASHC at community level. The level and need for organisational development in each community varies as the initiative both involves “old” communities (26) which have worked with the HDC structure for the last 3 years and communities where the HDC structure is either very weak or non-existent (24) new communities. The frequency and support provide by the initiatives field staff will be planned accordingly and to meet specific needs. Former experience shows that a community which is weak in its organisation will need strong project engagement and at least 4 monthly mobilising encounters as in: training, organisational capacity building in combination with activities on community climate-risk assessment, community participation in infrastructure improvement and community WASH committee negotiations with a private sector service provider. It is estimated that the “old” communities which at this point in time has work and developed organisational structures will need less frequent visits and focus will be more directly on the climate adaptation issues and support to local project management (in average 2 monthly encounters). In addition to the community-based activity the communities will also participate in cross learning activities in clusters of communities, conduct visits to exchange experience and finally also send representatives to district level meetings hosted by the WASH Committee.

**3.3** **Describe how the target groups and relevant actors have been involved in the**

**development of the intervention and the partners' legitimacy to act as champions of the target**

**groups' cause.** The initial proposal was born at the KDWASHC level in 2019 during an EWB-DK monitoring mission in Kenema. During the seminar, sustainability and future challenges were discussed with all relevant stakeholders, after outlining the first draft of the proposal between partners consultation was held with local district actors (other NGOs and government officials) to ensure both support and alignment with other initiatives. Also, and in particular, the traditional leaders have been engaged to ensure their support and in order to build on existing. This way the legitimacy of the traditional leaders is further enhanced, as they can deliver required services to the communities through inclusive engagement, which by example also demonstrate to the benefits of participatory and inclusive engagement of the communities. Finally, the proposal has been informed by the final evaluation of EWB-DK’s and SEND’s recent project on democratic WASH governance. Both national NGOs involved in the initiative have solid experience of community mobilization and civil society driven development through engagement of communities. As both partners also have experience of field work and are familiar with the district governing structures and specific poverty issues facing the population in the district, hence both have a solid platform to support the stewardship of the civil society structures on engaging in climate adaptation, hence improving livelihood based on the philosophy of help to self-help. The initiative has sought to align with the national process of the NAP and to use this process as the entry point for advocacy-oriented activities.

**Governing principles of intervention:** Besides zero-tolerance of corruption and sexual abuse, EWB-DK and partners are committed to Core Humanitarian standards' guiding principles. Joint efforts were made in 2019-2020 to align core values (CISU funded project). To align and consolidate this effort, the consortium will launch a CHS seminar for project staff during the inception of the project. The "do no harm principle" is of particular interest in the initiative because new technology is introduced during the initiative. When applying on-line data transmission in the project from the community level and using it as a governance and transparency tool at the district level, the initiative must ensure that no one is left in dependency at the end of the intervention. Hence the data software is open-source, and access to information will be open and public on-line, and local capacity to maintain and use it must be ensured. The software will not make use of commercial systems demanding a continued user fee to gain access. The access to a claims mechanism will also be outlined and communicated during the project in order to ensure the accountability of the project towards the beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

**Gender considerations:** When addressing the climate adaptation and, in particular, the WASH sector, it is important to analyse the gender perspective. Women and girls have the primary responsibility for health and collecting water in the rural areas for washing, cooking, cleaning, drinking, and sanitation purposes. Furthermore, it places important demands on women’s and girls’ time that could have been spent in school or in other valuable income generating activities benefitting their family and the women themselves. How to ensure gender equality and feedback in particular during intervention:

1.Women are likely to have increased responsibilities in the household and/or in the community and may not be able to commit as much time as men to coordination activities. The intervention will make sure that women are included in decision-making, such as arranging different meeting times, providing childcare or using other methods to engage women. 2.Consult women, girls and boys, and people with disability in connection with decisions related to the time, place, and methods applied in the community to ensure equal access. 3.Make sure vulnerable people are aware of activity plans (especially female and child heads of households and people with disability) 4. Monitor numbers of beneficiaries by sex, age, and disability, and respond to inequalities in engagement /participation. 5. Make sure that equal numbers of women and men are on the community groups to make sure that women’s and men’s needs, and perspectives are recorded and form part of the capacity building and the self-assessment of project progress. 6 Establish female assessment teams (consultations with women separately from men) to assure equal participation. 7. Make all members of the community aware of response activities to ensure accountability. If information is only given through the chiefs or community leadership, there is a possibility that vulnerable people will not be aware of distributions or activities.

**3.4 Describe the strategy of the intervention.** The overall development objective of the

intervention is to improved livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in

climate-sensitive WASH governance – target population 610,000 persons.

**The specific objectives to be achieved are.**

1. ***50 rural communities in Kenema district counts with climate robust WASH infrastructure*** (implementation of community driven climate-sensitive WASH actions towards climate-robust access to water and sanitation).
2. ***Kenema District governing WASH structure applies participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance*** (capacity building on national climate adaptation plan, participatory governance structures, development of district HDC’s SOPs and stands and through promotion of a market-driven service approach at community and district level in Kenema)
3. ***Kenema district serves as a catalytical examples of citizen-driven rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies*** *(*Policy influence from below - demonstration of citizen-driven climate-resilient WASH management from the community level)

**Main strategies to be applied in the initiative:**

To react the objectives, the initiative combines strategic service delivery, organisational development and capacity building and will apply 7 main strategies all based on citizens engagement and bottom-up driven process of change:

1. **Mainstreaming of climate adaptation (in service delivery at community level and in policy/governance district wide)**

Knowledge building on climate adaptation and implementation of actions to enhance climate robustness (ensure livelihood for the individual citizen) is a cross cutting focus at all levels and in all activities implemented. The initiative will work with the mainstreaming of climate adaptation in a vertical perspective (from community to district level) and in a cross-sector perspective involving NGOs, civil society structures, government institutions and private sector. All strategic actors will engage in a collective knowledge building process to enhance their respective knowledge platforms to engage in climate adaptation from a joint and shared knowledge platform. At the community level, citizens through the HDCs and wash committees will be involved in a participatory climate risk assessment informing further community WASH planning and the actual infrastructure adaptation. The ambition is that each community develops a climate risk and needs assessment and initiates mitigation initiatives which will make the latrines, wells and for examples stoves and other types of infrastructure robust to withstand future flooding/droughts. At district level, the KDWASHC will be the main point of entrance to ensure mainstream climate adaptation into district planning particular in the WASH sector. During the initiative, the KDWASHC will develop a district risk mapping and needs assessment which, combined with data from the national household survey and multidimensional poverty index, will serve to identify the most vulnerable communities and hence how to prioritize future investments/actions. The KDWASHC will engage in capacity building on climate adaptation and in the development of a participatory needs assessment and standards/policy formulation on climate-robust infrastructure and subsequently communicate the standards and policies to all relevant stakeholder community WASH committees, NGOs, Wards, and private service providers. The ambition is that the committee, through a participatory and inclusive approach, will spearhead the development of the district’s first climate adaptation plan on WASH and define district standards to be met on climate robust WASH infrastructure (applicable at community level and by private sector).

1. **Strategic service delivery (improved climate robust infrastructure and private sector engagement)**

Rehabilitation of old and construction of new climate robust WASH infrastructure needs capacity building of all involved parties from the community WASH committee to the District governance level and the private sector doing the actual work. The initiative uses 15 % of the budget (EWB-DK contribution is 39% of investments funds) on investment, insofar that investment in community climate robust infrastructure is seen as the entry point for more strategic work around governance and civic participation. The participatory climate risk mapping mentioned previously will inform each community on the specific needs for rehabilitation or new construction of climate robust WASH infrastructure to manage the increased and devastating rain patterns inflicting damage and negative impact on health, income, and mobility for the communities. In addition, the development of district wide standards on climate-robust WASH infrastructure combined with certification of the quality of private service providers, the KDWASHC will create the framework for the work of the private sector at community level. During the former CISU supported initiative (2018-2021) community-based maintenance and repair of water supply systems has demonstrated to be a significant challenge. The problem is lack of technical skills and is a problem recognised in many international WASH sector development projects. Hence, a market driven approach to ensure sufficient technical skills and service at community level through engagement with private service providers will be applied during present initiative. Involvement of the private sector in construction and maintenance will ensure the introduction of climate robust construction methods and reduce the response time for non-functional wells/other infrastructure, both are important factors for improving health and livelihood in the community (by avoiding use of polluted water for prolonged periods of time). Community ownership and genuine engagement will be promoted through 1) water (user) fee payment at community level and 2) community investment (co-payment) (10 % of project invested funds). Former interventions in the district have demonstrated the validity of the two requirements of engagement and has fostered strong local ownership in the planning of and in the actual service delivery. When providing continued support, the community WASH committees have demonstrated the ability to collect a user fee and hence the ability to also pay private service providers. Commercial strategic service delivery has won worldwide impasse and is also in the Sierra Leone context seen as an important component in securing functionality of water supply systems (National Sierra Leones WASH policy). The specific actions to be implemented are technical training on climate robust infrastructure and the development of a certification process as a requisite for the private sector to operate with climate sensitive WASH infrastructure at community level. The KDWASHC will launch a series of trainings for select technical staff in private sector, NGOs, wards, technical students at local collage, and local government officials. In addition, the private sector will be enrolled in a certification process to facilitate the building up of trust between the “buyer” and the “seller” of services (community and local service providers). The consortium’s field team will participate in the negotiations of local contracts, check the quality, and provide support to the KDWASHC in its role as project manager during the construction/maintenance of infrastructure - latrines, wells or others. In addition to technical training, the initiative will also support the KDWASHC in the development of standards to govern the interaction between HDCs/WASH committee (civil society) and private sector. Key elements in the component are facilitation "nursing" of a "market driven relationship" between buyer and seller and between communities and private-sector - small scale technical service providers - respectively.

Key assumptions are: ***ensure community user fee payments, trust-building strategies, regulation of market/certification of climate robust service delivery***

1. **Organization and capacity building of civil society (community approach)**

This initiative's underlying premise is that long lasting positive changes in vulnerable and poor communities must be based on local ownership, local leadership, and directed at local needs, hence work with local needs identification and prioritization. Community-based adaptation to climate change is a community-led process based on the communities' priorities, needs, knowledge, and capacities, which should empower people to plan for and cope with the impacts of climate change. In Kenema district (as in all over Sierra Leone) the HDC has proven to be a solid, permanent, and successful community structure to promote community driven development. The establishment/strengthening of the community HDC and its sub-committees on WASH is the core element in improved community governance in the present initiative and a condition for the initiative's success. The process will be individually tailored to meet the needs of each community. Areas of capacity building are: 1) development of HDC by-laws, 2) skills in community needs assessment, 3) conflict resolution at the community level, 4) management of user fee payment for water, 5) roles, rights and responsibilities in the ward representation at the district level, 6) project management on community infrastructure projects and 7) awareness-raising on human rights – the right to water and sanitation and ensure livelihood. The initiative will make use of the valuable experience on organization and community WASH governance generated in the 26 "old" communities; hence networking/community cross-visits are a central mobilizing and learning tools. Representatives of the communities are invited to visit other communities involved in the project, to exchange experiences, and learn from each other. The capacity building will be conducted directly with the members of the HDCs and the subcommittee on WASH in the community and when feasible in clusters of communities. It is the practical and tangible changes developed at community level which will feed into the objective 3 in present initiative and serve as inspiration towards national policy making on future climate robust WASH strategies in the NAP.

1. **Strengthening of democratic and transparent WASH sector governance – through capacity building, standardisation/quality control and introductions of new technology**

From a district-level perspective, good governance and transparency are addressed through a participatory and inclusive process on 1) development of district wide standard operation procedures (SoP) for HDCs (mandate and roles) and 2) formulation of a regulatory frame (standards and certification mechanism) to manage and guide the HDCs in their relationship with private sector service providers and 3) enhanced M&E / transparency through introduction of live data feed (IoT) from water community water supply systems. **SoP HDCs:** Many good examples of well-functioning HDCs exist by now in Kenema, however, no district wide SoP has been developed to govern and support continued community efforts on improved organisation/governance. Hence, based on the involvement and input from civil society and all relevant actors, a set of SoPs is to be developed and communicated to guide future efforts of community governance and ensure representation and connection to district level governance.

1. **Regulatory frame private sector engagement:** Regulation, quality control and oversight are needed due to the communities’ (the buyers’) lack of technical skills and lack of experience with private sector engagement which places them in a weak negotiation position towards the private sector. The initiative will involve civil society, government institutions, and NGOs in the formulation of a regulatory framework for the engagement with the private sector with a focus on technical qualifications, price level, and contract requirements. The framework is to establish a secure and transparent platform for the relationship between the individual community seeking to contract a local service provider on infrastructure works. It is envisioned that the process will provide for a positive spin off and platform of experience in other future relations between the private sector and civil society thus enhancing their bargaining power and skills.
2. **IoT, transparency and governance:** The combination of IoT technology (data transmission from community level) as a tool for transparency/governance will enhance accountability and the M&E capability of civil society through access to easy and open-source information on compliance by the local government on its obligation as provider of public basic service (water). The initiative will pilot 5 data monitoring systems which will provide daily information on the service delivery in 5 select communities on an open-source online platform. Hence the system will also track the downtime of the system if broken hence, the duration of periods when the population is without access to clean water should a system failure occur. The initiative will use an already existing government WASH data platform (designed by UNICEF and the Dutch NGO AKVO), and the KDWASHC will be able to monitor the water supply daily in each of the pilot communities. Transmitting live data is a ground-breaking and, for Sierra Leone, a new approach. Together with the team of AKVO EWB-DK and partner WHI-SL in 2020 have been able to transmit live data from WHI-SL/EWB-DK's water supply systems to the on-line government data platform and the present initiative will integrate the ability for live monitoring of the water supply in rural areas as a tool to increase transparency and good governance of the sector. The issue of functionality of the water supply[[7]](#footnote-7) is closely related to the issue of transparent management and the duty of provision, which rests with SALWACO (public water supply company). Specific activities to be implemented are training of the KDWASHC members in the use of the platform, training of private service providers in the service of the system and the placement of the information steaming from the system on the home page of the KDWASHC – securing public access. The data approach is envisioned to form an integral part of the district continued M&E of water supply systems – which historically has relied on the ability of each individual community to report on system failures to the district level. With the IoT approach, the human factor, which so often is seen as hindering the actual reporting of system failure to the responsible institutions, is eliminated.
3. **Influencing national policymaking from below – based on empiric evidence on citizen drive**

**climate adaptation through strategic service delivery.** The initiative will link to a national platform to ensure continued alignment, information, and capacity building on the country's first NAP, but also provide information for future national initiatives. Late in 2020, Sierra Leone formally began the preparation of the NAP with support from the United Nations and the African Development Bank. Hence the present initiative is presented at a very opportune moment in time to influence and advocate for a civil society inclusion in national planning on climate adaptation.   
  
The main components and how they strategically interact is illustrated in figure one on the following page.

**Figure 1: Main components of the project**Diagram

Description automatically generated

A central activity of the present initiative will be to formulate a strategy on how to advocate and influence future policy formulation at district level within the framework of the NAP, and how best to use the future NAP process as a platform for advocacy on cross-sector partnerships and civil society involvement - climate adaptation from below. The initiative recognises the importance in dedicating resources to develop a strategy of advocacy from district level and on a continued basis to prepare and influence (present comments and briefs) in order to ensure presence and representation in the NAP process. The initiative will also place available funds for representatives from the Kenema district to participate in future NAP seminars held by the government. Campaigns and press releases will ensure public awareness of the process. In addition, the initiative will plan and host a national conference on cross-sector climate adaptation from below. The above-mentioned strategy for advocacy towards the development of the Sierra Leone NAP will provide information for the planning of the national encounter and indicate who should be involved. As the NAP process is still very incipient, the national conference will be used strategically towards the NAP process and produce outcomes including as public joint statements from the parties in the conference, public petitions from the conference, a statement from the conference, all of which have the purpose of influencing the national policy process on the NAP and creating a platform for joint action on the inclusion of civil society in Sierra Leone’s future policies and plans on climate adaptation.

**3.5 Describe the objectives, activities, expected results, and indicators (or similar ways of formulating criteria of success) of the intervention**.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Development objective: Improved livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance - population 610.000 persons** | | | | |
|
| **Objective 1. 50 rural communities in Kenema district have with climate robust WASH infrastructure** *(implementation of community driven climate-sensitive WASH actions towards climate-robust access to water and sanitation and construction/rehabilitation).* | | | | |
| **Indicator** | | | | **Means of verification** |
| 1.1 Fifty communities with climate robust WASH infrastructure by Jan. '24 | | | | ● Physical inspection of WASH infrastructure and official certification. |
| 1.2 Fifty communities are aligned with new district-level climate-resilient WASH policies by Jan. '24 | | | | ● Physical inspection and official certification National WASH platform |
| 1.3 Fifty communities have functional standardized WASH governance structures (50 HDCs) by Jan. '23 | | | | ● Community climate resilient HDC mandate and WASH governance plans handed over to the district WASH committee |
| 1.5 Response time on WASH infrastructure break down has been reduced with 80 % | | | | ● Data logged monitoring at community level by NGO staff, data systems combined with KDWASHC incident reports |
| **Results/outputs** | **Activity** | | | |
|  | 1.1 Community engagement and mobilization towards the initiative | 1.1.1 | 50 community meetings to introduce the initiative to the community. Inclusive and participatory process in all engaged communities. | | |  |
|  | 1.2 Health development committees functioning at the community level (24 "new" and 26 "old" committees). Issues to be addressed: mandate and functionality of HDCs and wash committee. | 1.2.1 | Mobilization encounters at community level (approx. 2400 encounters - "new communities" 4 encounters in average in 25 months). Formation/capacity-building in HDCs, (management, transparency, conflicts resolution, user fee payment, negotiations with private service provider etc.) | | |  |
|  | 1.2.2 | Mobilization encounters at community level (approx. 1300 - "old communities" (26 communities x2 sessionsx25 months). Support in continued strengthening of their organisation, and in the negotiations with private service provider. Approximately 2 visits/trainings monthly | | |  |
|  | 1.2.3 | 20 community cluster encounters to facilitate exchange of experience on community HDC managed climate adaptation and WASH activities. | | |  |
|  | 1.3 Community aware of climate-induced hazards and their effect on their water supply | 1.3.1 | HDC capacity building in climate-induced hazards - participatory assessment of risks and how to mitigate them. (forms part of community activity in 1.2.1+1.2.3) | | |  |
|  | 1.4 communities with the capacity to engage in WASH sector climate adaptation | 1.4.1 | Community meetings to sensitize on relation with private service providers. Definition at community level of accountability from private service provider to community with the HDC as managing party. (forms part of community activity in 1.2.1+1.2.3) | | |  |
|  |  |
|  | 1.5 community engagement and mobilization on community climate WASH adaptation projects | 1.5.1 | Community prioritization of small-scale initiatives on climate adaptation - HDC is project manager on project and reports to WARD and KDWAC on progress - Each community manages 200 USD seed money form project. | | |  |
|  | 1.6 Rehabilitation/construction of climate sensitive WASH infra structure in fifty (50) communities | 1.6.1 | Participatory prioritization of need (session managed by HDCs at community level - involving all sectors in the community - one (1) session in each community) | | |  |
|  | 1.6.2 | Design and support to construction and maintenance from community level to install skills to engage in community climate adaptation works (improved latrines, wells, stoves, channels and more) - activity level depends on the nature of the work | | |  |
|  | 1.6.3 | Community based documentation of impact - identify improvements in livelihood in a participatory process - HDC to manage this activity in each community - part of the participatory M&E of the project | | |  |
|  | 1.6.4 | Disseminate lessons learned and best practices - through the community cross visits and report to be filed of project with the KDWASHC | | |  |
|  | **Objective 2. Kenema District governing WASH structure applies participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance** *(capacity building on national climate adaptation plan, participatory governance structures, development of district HDC’s SOPs and stands and through promotion of a market-driven service approach at community and district level in Kenema)* | | | | |  |
|  | **Indicator** | **Means of verification** | | | |  |
|  | **2.1 KDWASHC has developed an assessment of climate hazards district wide by march '22** | ● Report on District wide analysis of climate hazards developed and communicated publicly | | | |  |
|  | **2.2 KDWASHC has developed two (2) annual climate incidents report ('22 and '23)** | ● Annual climate hazard incident report elaborated and communicated publicly | | | |  |
|  | **2.3 District level climate sensitive policies and standards developed one (1) standard on community governance structures mandate (HDCs) by March '22** | ● A standard mandate for HDC and sub-WASH committees developed and circulated in District and Guideline on how to work at community level with climate adaptation on WASH has been developed and communicated | | | |  |
|  | **2.4 Kenema district implements WASH resilient annual planning and budgeting - two annual WASH plans ('23/'24) demonstrate climate adaptation initiatives with corresponding budget ('23/'24 plan)** | ● Climate sensitive Annual WASH sector Plan and budget developed and circulated publicly | | | |  |
|  | **2.5 Management system for private sector engagement developed (capacity building and certification system (min 21 service providers certified by Jan. '23)** | ● List of min 7 approved certified private sector service providers circulated District vide by the KDWASHC. | | | |  |
|  | ● Capacity building plan developed and tested by June '22 - min 20 providers trained along in addition to 40 technicians from NGOs, state admin and students from Polytechnical collage (60 technical personnel in total | | | |
|  | **Results/outputs** | **Activity** | | | |  |
|  | 2.1 Key stakeholders has built up knowledge and skills for increased local WASH resilience and adaptive capacity. | 2.1.1 | One training/information session by - Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency. 30 participants and 2x5 thematic sessions on robust WASH infrastructure to be implemented. | | |  |
|  | 2.2 District baseline on climate hazards and WASH-related impact | 2.2.1 | Workshops for key stakeholders to inform and discuss the scope and purpose of the baseline/assessment of climate hazards (30 participants) | | |  |
|  | 2.2.2 | Data collection and analysis - (during the field mobilizers community work) combined with desk study of historic incidents documentation. | | |  |
|  | 2.2.3 | Development and validation of the KDWASHC of assessment/base line on climate hazards affecting WASH access and livelihood | | |  |
|  | 2.2.4 | District level public event to inform on the findings (launch of report) | | |  |
|  | 2.3 Annual district action plan on WASH climate adaptation and mitigation | 2.3.1 | District action plan on WASH climate adaptation developed based on output 2.2 | | |  |
|  | 2.4 Certification criterion for private sector established and development of related trainings sessions on climate resilient WASH infrastructure | 2.4.1 | Formulation of certification criterion by KDWASHC | | |  |
|  | 2.4.2 | Capacity building for communities (buyers) on new certification process | | |  |
|  | 2.4.3 | Development and pilot testing of training program service providers (1x5 sessions) | | |  |
|  | 2.4.4 | Roll out of 2 additional series of training programme (2x5 thematic sessions) (total of 60 technical personnel (private, NGO and gov) trained in total) | | |  |
|  | 2.5 Awareness raising WASH rights SDG #6 at community level | 2.5.1 | Training of Ward persons (30 persx3 sessions) - mandate and obligations and the obligations of the local gov./min. according to the national WASH policy frame. | | |  |
|  | 2.5.2 | Development of climate incident report frame from community level to KDWASHC | | |  |
|  | 2.6 Annual tracking of district WASH investment/budget | 2.6.1 | 3 sessions ('22/'23/'23) in the KDWASHC to analyse district level budget on the WASH sector - analysis of degree of climate sensitivity (funding of area) | | |  |
|  | 2.6.2 | 2 sessions ('23/'24) to develop annual proposal on priority interventions on WASH to form part of the District Gov's annual budget on | | |  |
|  | 2.7 M&E of annual district plan on WASH - awareness raising on WASH priorities and plans | 2.7.1 | Review and update district WASH database, based on incident reports ongoing process in the meetings of KDWASHC | | |  |
|  | 2.7.2 | Session in the KDWASH / analysis and comments on degree of completion of annual district plan on WASH - public statement issued / radio campaigns launched | | |  |
|  | 2.8 Strengthened WASH M&E system through introduction of online data report system. | 2.8.1 | Training in online data management by KDWASH (1 initial and recurrent during ordinary sessions) | | |  |
|  | 2.8.2 | KDWASHC engages communities and install data transmitters on selected facilities | | |  |
|  | 2.8.3 | Link data transmission to national WASH platform | | |  |
|  | 2.8.4 | The KDWASHC monitors and report on data - agenda item on ordinary agenda for the monthly meetings | | |  |
|  | 2.9 Private sector certification process developed by KDWASHC | 2.9.1 | KDWASHC defines requirements and procedures for the certification | | |  |
|  | 2.9.2 | Development/ pilot testing of training program (1x5 sessions) with 2 subsequent roll outs. - total of 60 technicians trained. | | |  |
|  | 2.9.3 | Community awareness raising on certificating process/support/supervision offered through initiative. Cluster meetings of community HDC representatives - (cluster of 5 communities x one information sessions = 10 sessions) | | |  |
|  | 2.10 Pilot project Community-based climate robust EASH infrastructure (improved construction of wells, flooding, and infrastructure damage mitigation) implemented | 2.10.1 | Identification of climate robust WASH infrastructure | | |  |
|  | 2.10.2 | Design and support to construction and maintenance | | |  |
|  | 2.10.3 | Document and access impact | | |  |
|  | 2.10.4 | Disseminate lessons learned and best practices | | |  |
|  | **Objective 3. Kenema district serves as a catalytical examples of citizen-driven rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies.** *Policy influence from below - demonstration of citizen-driven climate-resilient WASH management from the community level* | | | | |  |
|  | **Indicator** | | | **Means of verification** | |  |
|  | **3.1 KDWASHC has developed advocacy strategy to influence national policy frame on climate adaptation in the WASH sector - targeting NAP** | | | ● Strategy and corresponding plan of action has been approved in the sessions of the KDWASHC by March 2022 - documented in the MoM of meeting | |  |
|  | **3.2 Approaches, experiences, and lessons learned regarding standardized climate robust WASH governance and a market mechanism documented and disseminated at national level** | | | ● National conference on cross-sector climate adaptation from below Conducted by the end of project (list of program and participants) Report from national conference circulated on-line on relevant sites (WASH Committee, WASH network Sierra Leone and relevant government institutions). Conference held by October 2023 documented by MoM and through public statements form conference | |  |
|  | **3.3 KDWASHC has developed / communicated strategic input to the development of the national climate adaptation plan (NAP)** | | | ● KDWASHC has formulated at least 4 briefs, comments and 3 cases based on best practice approaches to inform the elaboration of the NAP - documented at the web page of the KDWASHC by October 2023 | |  |
|  | **Results/outputs** | **Activity** | | | |  |
|  | 3.1 District wide knowledge on the NAP process | 3.1.1 | Seminar held on National Adaptation Plan (NAP) - 50 participants strategic stakeholders - by December 2021. Invitation extended to the Ministry of Environmental protection (responsible gov. Institution of the NAP process) | | |  |
|  | 3.2 KDWASH plan of advocacy /action plan developed to influence national policy formulation /NAP in the WASH sector | 3.2.1 | 1 day seminar with external advocacy expert facilitating (30 participants) | | |  |
|  | 3.3 Lessons learned and best practices documented and shared with relevant entities and stakeholders (2 on-line publications - one video) by January 2024 | 3.3.1 | Journalist hired to follow and document the process and outcomes at select communities (4) project and to document in articles and visually the citizen drives climate adaptation initiatives | | |  |
|  | 3.3.2 | District level radio campaigns has been launched to inform on the NAP and the District' initiative on climate sensitive WASH planning (10x3 radio sessions) | | |  |
|  | 3.3.3 | Annual workshop for communities and Kenema district on lessons learned and most significant changes (involvement of Wards and members of KDWASHC) - 50 participants | | |  |
|  | 3.4 National conference on cross-sector climate adaptation from below conducted by January 2024 | 3.4.1 | Arrange national conference - call for national partners | | |  |
|  | 3.4.2 | Conduct national conference (date and location to be determined in order to feed into NAP process in a strategic manner) | | |  |
|  | 3.4.3 | Disseminate discussions and outcomes of the conference | | |  |
|  | 3.5 KDWASHC has become a formal partner in the WASH network representing a participatory space between gov. inst. and civil society by June 2022 | 3.5.1 | KDWASHC has formally received registration as member in the national WASH network by January 2022 | | |  |

**3.6 Long-term sustainability and relations with other actors,** Building capacity in already existing structures as in the HDCs, KDWASHC and aligning with the NAP makes the results of the initiative more sustainable insofar as these structures will continue after the end of the initiative. All strategic spaces targeted in capacity building and advocacy are permanent and independent of the initiative. The present initiative builds upon EWB-DKs and partners experience in the WASH sector in Sierra Leone (Kenema and Freetown). The initiative is envisioned to further consolidate joint work methods and learning. However, it also integrates new strategic private sector actors insofar that the clear lesson learned by EWB-DK, its partners and in fact globally is that sustainability of community water supply must integrate improved levels of technical skills, hence a market drives approach with market actors (small service providers to be integrated in future actions). The former intervention in Kenema has been evaluated and, and preliminary findings clearly indicated that new strategies for local sustainability and technical viability must be integrated in future approaches.

**3.7 Sustainable and lasting improvements for poor, marginalised and vulnerable target groups and strengthening the partners' capacities after the intervention period.** It is foreseen that lasting improvements will be created both in the short term (immediate livelihood improvement) and in the long term (change of policy and inclusion of civil society in the national planning on climate adaptation). In the communities and at family level, the initiative will create an immediate (positive) impact on livelihood in 50 communities (improved health and improved economy) via access to climate robust infrastructure – hence less damage to the water supply, less pollution from latrines and less local impact of flooding. Indicators are for family health and economy.

The direct impact will be measured against the base line data each community will develop in their respective risk assessment. The ambition is that the participating communities will be more climate robust and able to withstand the stress of future flooding and climate induced hazards as the infrastructure has improved. Continued user fee payment in each community after the end of the intervention period is one of the key factors of sustainability. This is particular critical in Sierra Leone where the state is not able to provide the basic social nor infrastructure services to the communities. Experiences from the previous WASH project in 26 communities documents that the enhance capacity to manage and organise goes far beyond WASH. Several communities have been able to invest in new community based income-generating activities such as cassava farming, groundnut farming, swamp rice farms , maize farms, a birth awaiting home to aid pregnant women on delivery and 5 communities generate income solar charging facilities for mobile phones. This is also expected to happen in the 24 new communities and continue in the ‘old communities’, and thereby enhancing resilience and livelihood. The role of the state is however, to establish a framework and structure within which these services will be delivered and oversee that it takes place. Therefore, the development of district level standard operating procedures (SoPs) on the HDCs role as manager and enforcer of the user fee payments to ensure additional accountability in the community HDCs (both from community level and from the District WASH committee) is essential. As well as enhancing the KDWASHC’s capacity and ability to prioritise the most vulnerable communities and monitor that the communities actually have access to water, through digitalised data transmission from the water points is required. Finally, the technical capacity building of private sector contribute to a more relevant and adequate service, and will the institutionalisation of certification of private service providers continue to ensure the quality of service provided. In the medium-term, change is foreseen in the ability of all involved actors to plan and execute climate robust planning and community initiatives. All strategic stakeholders (at community level and district level) will have enhanced knowledge of climate adaptation in the WASH sector and will have gained practical experience through community pilot projects in its actual implementation. The citizens of Kenema will have developed plans and actual experience on how to address climate adaptation at community level. The initiative will also promote more transparency and monitoring of the state’s roles and duty bearer in its role as public service provider (water) and hence improve accountability and the ability of civil society to address the lack of compliance in the State’s obligation to meet the basic needs of the poorest communities in Sierra Leone. In the long run, the ambition is to impact national policy formulation. Through advocacy towards the national NAP development, the initiative will provide information for the national planning of climate adaptation with actual and evidence-based advocacy on democratic and civil society engagement in climate adaptation. It is the strategic ambition that that Sierra Leone in the future will adopt a more citizen inclusive and driven approach in WASH sector governance, and climate adaptation will be an integrated part of future national WASH sector planning. The participatory community engagement and citizen-driven approach is envisioned as a catalytic role for a more pro-civil society approach in national policy planning and in actual service delivery and demonstrates the positive results created through a cross-sector approach.

**3.8 Monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination of experience.** TheM&E is outlined as a participatory approach with stakeholders taking ownership in defining and measuring own successes, The M&E system will be developed and applied in the following steps.

1. As part of the inception/kick-off of the project a consultative process/combined with basic M&E training will be conducted with the communities and the KDWASHC to formulate milestones and success criteria.

2. The project will integrate the inputs in the development of a detailed monitoring plan clearly stating targets, tools, indicators, and responsibilities.

3. The monitoring plan will be shared with the International AC.

4. The national partners will conduct real time monitoring whenever they go to the field by using KoBOCollect – an on-line tool for collection of field data from activities implemented on mobile devises The data will be accumulated in a database throughout the lifespan of the projects and provide inputs to monthly reports, based on which the PMG will develop joint monthly activity plans in order to ensure alignment and coordination of activities.

5. The partners will support the communities and the KDWASHC in conducting quarterly participatory project monitoring sessions also through application of KoBOCollect and consultative meetings with outset in the monitoring, based on which the partners prepare quarterly reports. The quarterly reports must include a section reviewing the risks, and if need be, update the risk matrix and review the mitigation measures.

6. Quarterly participatory monitory sessions of the KDWASHC M&E.

7. Biannual report from PMG to AC as basis for the biannual AC meeting to get strategic feedback.

8. A mid-term evaluation will be conducted, including a 1-day seminar with district level participants (mainly KDWASHC) and 5 cluster meetings at community level. The mid-term evaluation will also specifically include evaluation of the advocacy plan (evaluation of progress and suggestions on improvement/further actions. The projects Steering Committee will assess and propose adjustment of the work-plan, if required, for presentation to and discussion with the and discussion with the International AC.

Activities under obj. 3 are the platform for the transmission of results and best practice. The ambition of the initiative is, on an ongoing basis, to foster external communication of learning and experience to influence policy development and main institutional actors at national levels on how to involve civil society in the climate adaptation plan of the country. Final evaluation will be a participatory investigation conducted by an external international consultant combined with the data from the end line survey and data generated from the project’s M&E system.

**3.9 Risk assessment. Key risks and proposed mitigation measures.** As outlined below main risks of project is political interference due to national elections, hence hijacking of community activities for political purpose. This is a known phenomenon, and the implementing partners have decided to focus more on activities as M&E, documentation and activities not connected to community outreach during election period, hence impact is estimated to be low. Lack of public infrastructure and governance is also affecting activities to a high degree – however as the partners have solid experience in directing project activities under such difficult conditions impact is assed to be low. Finally, will the core them of project – namely negative effect of climate change will most likely occur, and activities will be planned accordingly at community level.

**Key risks, impact assessment and mitigation**:

Table

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**4. Intervention-related information work in Denmark** In our communication on the initiative, EWB-DK will place a strategic focus on the specific contribution that Danish companies and their employees provide to the project. We will show how Danish volunteers use their professional knowledge to build capacity and create sustainable jobs for beneficiaries. Our members are our ambassadors. Many of them are employed in Danish technical companies; we have had significant success involving Danish companies to meet the SDGs. The main target groups in our communication are Danish companies and their employees (mostly through social media and press), natural science students (mostly events and social media), and a broader public (mostly through the press). Annually, we have a presence in the media with an estimated 1,250,000 daily readers accumulated. In our social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram), we have an estimated accumulated reach of 185,000 per year. The platform provided by Danske Vandværker is a unique platform reaching a highly motivated and relevant audience in DK.

**Planned activities are:** SoMe activity demonstrating Danish Technical volunteers in the field, newsfeed to relevant news platforms (Ingeniøren and tech-oriented magazines), Participation in student curricular activities at DTU and SDU, participating in the cultural night at the IDA compound in Copenhagen, newsfeeds on the news platform by the Danish companies and universities involved as strategic partners in the project.

**5. Supplementary financing** EWB-DK will provide 300,0000 DKK, particularly on the investment side, as community investment in climate adaptation is an essential strategic investment in the realisation of short-term success and local engagement. EWB-DK will also provide 100,000 DKK for the activity budget line to transfer Danish technical knowledge to partners and strategic stakeholder (data transmission systems, drone aerial survey, amongst others). EWB-DK funding has been ensured through funding from private foundations and private donors.

1. http://interaide.org/watsan/sl/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/National-WASH-Policy-Final-2010.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/30155/128558-REVISED-WB-CPIA-Report-July2018-ENG-final-web.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. file:///C:/Users/Dorte/OneDrive%20-%20Ingeni%C3%B8rer%20uden%20Gr%C3%A6nser/Skrivebord/sierra\_leone\_country\_diagnostic\_note-final.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.unicef.org/wash/files/Sierra\_Leone\_final\_report\_favorable\_zones\_(FINAL).pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/?country=129 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://www.who.int/water\_sanitation\_health/publications/2012/globalcosts.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. https://washdata-sl.org/map/water-point-functionality/ [↑](#footnote-ref-7)