

**RULINDO WATER FOR THE PLANET INITIATIVE**

**VOLUNTARY PROJECT ACTIVITY (VPA)**

**KEY INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**WATER FOR THE PLANET INITIATIVE VPA 001 (GS23533)**

**1. Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) – GS23533**

The Water for the Planet Initiative aims to expand access to safe drinking water for communities across Rwanda by rehabilitating defunct water infrastructure and installing in-line chlorination and other appropriate water treatment technologies within existing community water supply (CWS) systems. By delivering safe water directly to communities, the project reduces the need for households to boil water using non-renewable biomass, thereby lowering greenhouse gas emissions while improving public health. The project supports Rwanda's district-level water access targets, national climate commitments, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Technology implemented under the VPA (involves use of one /combination of both technologies Community level water treatment technologies (CWT) and Community water supply technologies (CWS) for supplying and /or provisioning of safe drinking water systems to the communities – households /residents/ institutions).

Water Access Rwanda (WAR) serves as the Coordinating and Managing Entity, responsible for project management and carbon credit monitoring, certification, and sale, while WASAC Group, Rwanda's national water utility, leads system installation, rehabilitation, operation, maintenance, and water quality compliance.

Key stakeholders include Rulindo District authorities, local administrative leaders at Cell Levels, private operator (currently COWBE and OWNE LORD), and community members who use the system and those with roles in the construction, operation and monitoring of CWT/CWS.

**Change after Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting**

This section was modified after Stakeholder consultation to include specificity on local administrative leaders being at the cell level and the names of the two private operators involved in Rulindo District. Further, community members with roles in relation to the project was expanded to specifically include those given jobs during project construction and operation as a key impact of the project

**2. Geographical Boundary and Scale**

The VPA is implemented within Rulindo District, Northern Province of the Republic of Rwanda. All CWT and CWS systems included under this VPA fall within these boundaries.

GPS coordinates will be used to verify the location of each system and all end-users.

Only users located within a 1-km radius of a CWT/CWS access point will be included for carbon monitoring. This VPA is classified as small-scale and is not expected to issue more than 60,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

**Change after Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting**

No Change

**3. Duration of the VPA**

Start Date of VPA: 15 April 2026

Start of Crediting Period: 15 April 2026

VPA Duration: 15 years (5 year terms, twice renewable), As per Gold Standard rules for community service activities and aligned with the PoA duration.

**Change after Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting**

No Change

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### 4. Implementation Plan

The VPA will be implemented through the following activities within Rulindo District:

#### A. Rehabilitation and Expansion

- Repair of non-operational or underperforming CWS infrastructure
- Extension of distribution networks to ensure water access within 1 km
- Addition of pipelines for private household connections prioritizing individuals living with disabilities.

#### B. Water Treatment Technologies

- Installation of in-line chlorination systems
- Additional filtration where required
- Compliance with RS EAS 12 Potable Water Standard

#### C. Distribution Network Components

- Public standpipes and water kiosks
- Storage tanks, pressure regulators, and control valves
- Gravity-fed or electric-powered pumping systems

#### D. Operations & Maintenance

- Continuous operation and maintenance by WASAC Group
- Logging of downtime, repairs, and maintenance events
- Regular water quality testing before commissioning and throughout operation

#### E. Monitoring & Data Management

- Unique IDs for each CWT/CWS system and user connection
- User assisted chlorine monitoring
- GPS mapping of all assets and households
- Annual monitoring surveys
- Carbon monitoring and reporting by the CME

#### Change after Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

The private household connection activity was revised to include a prioritization of individuals living with disabilities where piped networks are introduced. During the first two years of the project, chosen members of the community will be trained on and enabled to conduct chlorine tests to strengthen the monitoring capacity of the private operators and WASAC group, while also using the measurement to instill confidence in the safe water.

### 5. Target End-Users and Carbon Rights

The VPA targets:

- Households relying on unsafe or unreliable water sources
- Boarding schools and other full-time premises
- Day schools and health centers
- Only end-users located within 1 km of a project water access point will be included in carbon monitoring.

The transfer of carbon credit ownership from end-users to the project developers, was clearly explained during the stakeholder consultation process and end users were given the opportunity to give full prior and informed consent on their carbon rights transfer.

The transfer of carbon credit ownership from end-users to Water Access Rwanda will happen only after system installation or rehabilitation. It will be through a written assertion by the Executive Secretary of the Cell where the CWT/CWS is located. In the case of a complex system

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touching on multiple cells, multiple carbon transfers will be made to cover all users using the CWT/CWS where located in different cells.

All in attendance at the LSC physical meeting, including District Vice Mayor, several community members agreed this was the best method to capture the consent of the community on transferring their carbon rights to the project developers.

This approach respects existing community leadership and governance structures, and the final agreed process will be documented in the stakeholder consultation report.

### **Change after Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting**

The process to transfer carbon credit ownership from end-users to Water Access Rwanda was updated to that agreed in the LSC Physical Meeting. Stakeholder confirmation that there are no other existing carbon projects in water in the district.

## **6. Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

SDG 13 – Climate Action: Reduction of GHG emissions by avoiding boiling of water with non-renewable biomass

SDG 1 – No Poverty: Increased access to basic services and improved water sources

SDG 5 – Gender Equality: Reduced time spent by women on unpaid domestic work

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation: Increased use of safely managed drinking water services

SDG 8 – Decent work and Economic Growth: creation of jobs in project implementation.

SDG 3 – Good health and Wellbeing: reduction of waterborne diseases

### **Change after Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting**

SDG8 and SDG3 were added as several users highlighted job creation was a very interesting aspect of the project and noted that with safer water, diseases would drop.

## **7. Additional Relevant Information**

The VPA is funded by WASAC Group and Water Access Rwanda. No Official Development Assistance (ODA) has been received or will be used.

Carbon revenues will subsidize technology costs and cover monitoring and implementation expenses. The VPA applies the methodology "Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply – Version 1.0."

Annual hygiene education campaigns will be conducted to reinforce safe water handling and reduce boiling Behavior.

### **Input and Grievance Mechanism Procedure**

- A Continuous Input and Grievance Expression Process Book will be available at the Water and Sanitation offer desk in the District One Stop Center.
- Comments can be communicated via the call center: Telephone: **+250 780 308 482** or by Email: [waterforplanet@wateraccess.rw](mailto:waterforplanet@wateraccess.rw)
- Gold standard can be reached by email: [help@goldstandard.org](mailto:help@goldstandard.org)

### **Change after Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting**

Added information on the input and grievance mechanism procedure.