Vacancy: Project Manager – Tanzania (WaterWorX)

About the position

As Project Manager, you are responsible for ensuring the continuity of VEI's Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs) with four water utilities in Tanzania (Mwanza, Arusha, Dodoma, and Tanga). Together with the utilities, financiers, ministries, sector organisations, regulators, and other stakeholders, you will work on delivering technical assistance through the peer-to-peer model and mobilising investments. The objective is to sustainably improve the performance of water and sanitation utilities, enabling more people to gain access to reliable water supply and sanitation services.

Within the framework of the WaterWorX programme, you are ultimately accountable for achieving the project objectives. You actively safeguard the interests of the partner utilities, the donor (the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and the Dutch water utilities. You work closely with the management teams of the partner utilities to strengthen ownership, connect Dutch and regional experts with local staff to foster sustainable knowledge development, and identify opportunities to further increase the impact of the partnerships. In addition, you initiate and oversee strategic investments (€50,000-€400,000) and maintain relationships with donors and partners to facilitate additional investments.

You will travel regularly throughout the country. One day you may be visiting an investment project in Tanga, for example supported by the Water for Life Foundation, while the next day you may be meeting the Managing Director of a water utility in Dodoma, representatives of the ministry, and international financiers such as the World Bank to discuss new investment opportunities.

In addition to your responsibility for the WaterWorX programme, you are also responsible for implementing other VEI projects in Tanzania in collaboration with strategic partners. Business development and further expansion of the country portfolio are also important aspects of the role. You will maintain and expand VEI's network of stakeholders in Tanzania and work closely with VEI headquarters in the Netherlands to identify opportunities for new partnerships and funding, translating them into concrete projects.

Your responsibilities

- Overall responsibility for achieving programme objectives, reporting on progress, and identifying, discussing, and managing risks and opportunities related to the WOPs in Tanzania.
- Functional leadership and development of the project team in Tanzania, as well as Dutch and regional experts.
- Managing the interests of Tanzanian water utilities, Dutch water utilities, and local and international financiers.
- Building and maintaining strong relationships with partner utilities, stakeholders, and other sector partners in Tanzania.
- Advocating for the vision and added value of Water Operator Partnerships.

- Initiating and realising business development and advocacy activities to ensure the continuation and growth of VEI's work in Tanzania.

Project and Country Context

As Project Manager, you are responsible for the Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs) with four water utilities in Tanzania (Mwanza, Arusha, Dodoma, and Tanga), with the aim of sustainably improving their performance and service delivery. The programmes are funded through WaterWorX and, in the case of Tanga, additionally by the European Union through a contract with GIZ.

You will work across a geographically extensive area, as the four utilities are located throughout the country and require regular site visits. Each utility is supported by an experienced local team, with whom you will work closely to improve operational processes, working methods, and staff capacities.

VEI has been active in Tanzania since 2018. The commitment and motivation of the partner utilities are strong, but achieving sustainable improvements remains challenging within a dynamic operating environment. You will also maintain relationships with donors and partners, including the World Bank, the European Union, and AFD, to mobilise investments for the utilities and explore opportunities for further collaboration and business development.

You will work closely with colleagues across the region, have weekly coordination meetings with your Regional Manager in the Netherlands, and monitor programme finances together with the Business Controller. In addition to the day-to-day management of the WOPs, you will contribute to VEI's strategic development in Tanzania, ensuring that cooperation and impact continue beyond 2030.

What you bring

- At least 5 years of relevant work experience in the drinking water and/or water sector.
- At least 5 years of experience in project management.
- Demonstrated international work experience, preferably in Africa.
- Proven experience in business development and/or developing new partnerships.
- Experience building and maintaining relationships with donors, government institutions, and other strategic partners.
- A completed relevant Bachelor's or Master's degree.
- Experience leading teams and professionals.
- Proven experience and affinity with stakeholder management in complex environments.
- Understanding of political and governance dynamics and the ability to navigate them effectively.
- Excellent command of professional English.

Who you are

- An inspiring project manager with strong leadership capabilities.
- Impact-driven and able to perform under challenging circumstances.
- A connector who can coach and motivate people.

- Able to influence without formal authority.
- Culturally sensitive and adaptable in an international environment.
- Entrepreneurial and relationship-oriented; able to identify opportunities for new partnerships, align the interests of partners and donors, and build strategic relationships.
- Able to combine analytical thinking with a pragmatic approach.
- Proactive and committed to achieving results.
- Adaptable and continuously looking for opportunities to increase impact.
- Capable of working under pressure, setting priorities, and maintaining boundaries.
- Flexible and willing to travel regularly within Tanzania and occasionally internationally.
- Comfortable working in a dynamic environment and able to deal effectively with uncertainty and changing circumstances.

Employment Conditions

- Start date: May 2027 through December 2030.
- For the duration of the assignment, you will work abroad as independent consultant.
- Employment conditions in accordance with VEI's long-term mission secondment regulations.
- Position classified in Scale 12 (Dutch Water Utilities Collective Labour Agreement).
- Duty station: Tanzania. Exact location to be determined in consultation.

Why this position?

This role offers a unique opportunity to contribute to a strategically important programme within VEI. You will work on innovative partnership models with multiple utilities and make a tangible contribution to addressing complex water-sector challenges.

At VEI, you will work in a professional, collaborative environment that encourages personal development and places societal impact at the heart of its mission.

Interested?

Please send your motivation letter and CV to HR@vei.nl before 20 November 2026.

Would you like to know more about this vacancy? Please contact Emma Lesterhuis at emma.lesterhuis@vei.nl or +31 6 53933240.