



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 23/02/2024

1.2 | Decision

The Deviation Request is approved.

The conflict and ongoing situation in the region is beyond control of PD. The project has achieved quarterly water quality testing to a good standard during the monitoring period so far.

The deviation approval is valid for monitoring period of 01/08/2021- 30/07/2022 and subsequent monitoring period, as long as the project continues to achieve quarterly water quality testing to a good standard, as described in this deviation request.

When the security situation in the region improves and quarterly water testing is possible, the PD shall comply with TPDDTEC 3.1 Water Quality Testing requirement.

PD shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP) and the verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above condition and provide its opinion in the Verification Report.

1.3 | Is this decision applicable to other project activities under similar circumstances?

No

B. To be completed by the Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB requesting deviation (Submit deviation request form in Microsoft Word format)

2| Background information

| | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| Deviation Reference Number | DEV_628 | |
| Date of decision | 23/02/2024 | |
| Precedent (YES/NO) | no | |
| Precedent details | | |
| Date of submission | 20/02/2024 | |
| Project/PoA/VPA | Project | ID – GS10735 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> PoA | ID – GS10736 |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA | ID – GS10737 |
| Project/PoA/VPA title | GS1247 VPA 256 Northern Ethiopia Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 257 Northern Ethiopia Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 258 Northern Ethiopia Community Safe Water | |
| Date of listing | GS10735- 09/04/2021 GS10736- 09/04/2021 GS10737- 23/04/2021 | |
| GS Standard version applicable | GS TPDDTEC v 3.1 | |
| Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable) | N/A | |
| Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable) | N/A | |
| Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable) | N/A | |
| Location of project/PoA/VPA | Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia | |
| Scale of the project/PoA/VPA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale | |
| Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA | https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects?q=10735&page=1 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2725 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2726 | |
| Status of the project/PoA/VPA | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified project | |
| Title/subject of deviation | Civil conflict impacting regular WQT monitoring of some project water points | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number | “Water quality testing: Water quality must be tested every quarter, with the first test within 6 months of the stated project start date...” (Page 51). TPDDTEC 3.1 |
| Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable) | Start date: 01/08/2021 End date: Ongoing (Also covering the monitoring period of 01/08/2021-30/07/2022) |
| Submitted by | Contact person name: Matthew Pike |
| | Email ID: matthew.pike@co2balance.com |
| | Organisation: CO2balance |
| | Project participant: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB). | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes; VVB name: VVB Staff name(s): |
| Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 | Deviation detail

3.1 | Description of the deviation:

**Guidance* Use the space below to describe the deviation and substantiate the reason for requesting deviation from applicable rules/requirements. Please include all relevant information in support of the request. You are requested to follow the principles for requesting deviations, given in the [Deviation Approval Procedure/ Design Change Requirements](#).*

3.1.1 | Deviation detail (to be completed by Project developer):

Regular WQT throughout the project has not been possible at all water points for the duration of the monitoring period and ongoing period since. Civil War in the region and military tension in the project area means it is unsafe for the field team to make regular quarterly trips to project sites for the purpose of Water Quality Testing.

Not only would this put the field team at risk, but also community members.

The field team has endeavoured to conduct water quality tests at any site where deemed safe and accessible to do so within the region and as a result the project continues to offer quarterly WQT results across the waterpoint sites for this MP, in-line with minimum CDM sampling.

The conflict in Northern Ethiopia broke out in November 2020 and has heightened ethno-nationalist sentiment among the Amhara (1). The conflict in Northern Ethiopia has killed thousands of civilians and displaced millions across three regions in Ethiopia and into neighbouring Sudan (2,6). The situation remains complex and ever-changing.

“Tensions between Fano and the federal government surged in April 2022 with the arrest of many Fano fighters” (7). “The conflict [between Tigrayan and Ethiopian and allied forces] expanded into the neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions in July [2022], displacing hundreds of thousands. Tigrayan forces summarily executed Amhara civilians and were implicated in the pillage of civilian property” (5).

“...atrocities, including sexual violence, committed by fighters affiliated with the Tigray People’s Liberation Front in the Amhara region of Ethiopia... perpetrated in and around Chenna and Kobo in late August and early September 2021, shortly after Tigrayan forces took control of the areas in July.... “This includes repeated incidents of widespread rape, summary killings and looting, including from hospitals,” said Sarah Jackson, Deputy Regional Director for East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes at Amnesty International (4).

1.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/may/30/more-than-4000-arrested-in-amhara-as-ethiopia-cracks-down-on-militia>

2.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/fighting-ethiopias-afar-region-displaces-300000-aid-blocked-tigray-2022-02-08/>

3.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-61591159>

4.

<https://editorials.voa.gov/a/tplf-must-be-held-accountable-for-atrocities-in-amhara/6477256.html>

5.

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/ethiopia>

6.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/ethiopia-authorities-must-investigate-massacre-of-ethnic-amhara-in-tole/>

7.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/reflection-conflict-amhara-region-ethiopia>

3.1.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

N/A

3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

3.2.1 | Deviation assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

The Project Developer confirms that quarterly water quality testing has been conducted during the monitoring period at a number of sites, though not all.

The design certified PDD outlines that WQT should be conducted quarterly (Figure 2), this project achieved quarterly water quality testing across the project.

| | |
|---|---|
| Relevant SDG Indicator | SDG 6.1.1 (Clean Water and Sanitation) |
| Data / Parameter | Quality of Treated Water |
| Unit | Parameters as per national standards |
| Description | Performance of the treatment technology |
| Source of data | Laboratory Tests |
| Value(s) applied | Certificates supplied at verification |
| Measurement methods and procedures | The water quality will be tested in line with national standards in Ethiopia. The water samples will be taken at source by the testing body. |
| Monitoring frequency | Quarterly |
| QA/QC procedures | The first test will be within 6 months of the rehabilitation. At least one test thereafter every 3 months conducted by accredited laboratory. |

Figure 1: WQT parameter from PDD

Some rehabilitated water points have not yet received their initial WQT because of the civil war. When considering the WQT testing across the WPs in WQT program, the project achieves a high percentage of waterpoints being tested from the possible waterpoint population size, as well as a 100% pass rate (adjusted to 95% for conservativeness within the CDM sampling calculator). When we factor these test quantities into CDM precision/confidence calculator, each quarter the project achieves far more than the sample size required, as highlighted in Figure 2 and 3 below and the accompanying excel to his deviation.

| Input | Value | Notes |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Expected proportion, p | 0.95 | enter on a decimal scale |
| Confidence level | 90% | e.g. for 90% enter 90 |
| z multiplier | 1.645 | determined by confidence level |
| Relative precision | 10% | e.g. for 10% enter 10 |
| Population size, N | 60 | |
| Predicted sample size, n | 12 | rounded up to nearest integer |

Figure 2: CDM sampling requirements based on full WP project, showing 12 WQTs required at a pass rate of 95%

| | Tested | Pass | Fail | WP in WQT program | % Tested | CDM Required Tests |
|----------------|--------|------|------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Q2 2021 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 19 | 89% | 12 |
| Q3 2021 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 36 | 47% | 12 |
| Q4 2021 | 36 | 36 | 0 | 40 | 90% | 12 |
| Q1 2022 | 39 | 36 | 0 | 49 | 73% | 12 |

Figure 3: Testing% and passes by quarter of MP. 'WP in WQT program' are quantity of WPs consider older than 6 months and eligible for quarterly testing.

The conflict and ongoing situation in the region is beyond the PD’s and implementation partners control; however, the nature of this deviation is temporary, and once safe to do, the designed WQT schedule will be implemented across all water points.

3.2.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

N/A

3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

3.3.1 | Impact assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

Despite the challenges highlighted, the project has achieved quarterly water quality testing within the project during the monitoring period to a good standard considering the challenges faced, furthermore surpassing any CDM sampling requirements. Therefore, impact to crediting is minimal, as other caps (usage rate, user number etc.) allows for additional conservativeness.

However, for added conservativeness PP proposes an additional functionality cap across all ER claims. Currently the PP applies a self-imposed 95% functionality cap to the ERs regardless.

Due to the nature of this deviation, PP proposes that once considering the level of precision achieved in the sampling under CDM, this be factored into a more severe functionality cap.

On this occasion when factoring in 60 WPs needing a visit (this is already conservative as not all needed a visit each quarter as per excel shared), and the quarter with the lowest quantity of WPs visited (17), relative precision of 7.7% is achieved (Figure 4).

Therefore the PP will apply a functionality cap of 92.3% to account for the relative prevision achieved- ensuring conservativeness to ERs claimed during this MP.

| Calculator to check if the precision has been met or not after a sampling survey is conducted | | |
|---|--------|-------|
| Input | Value | Notes |
| Actual sample size | 17 | |
| Sample proportion | 0.9500 | |
| Standard error of the proportion | 0.0447 | |
| Precision associated with a proportion | 0.0736 | |
| Relative precision | 7.7% | |

Figure 4: Relative precision achieved from 17 WPs visited out of 60 total and 90/10

Furthermore, in Q1 2023 an opportunity was found to test the bacteriological parameters at each of the 60 WPs through immense effort from the field team. This resulted in a 100% pass rate.

In our years of running safe water projects, we have not experienced a WP been failing WQT in a period not tested, then achieve a pass without remedial action- suggesting WQ was passing throughout the lifetime of the project.

Moving forward, where testing remains impossible for some WPs due to security concerns, PP proposes implementing this approach until safe to do so.

Further, a quarterly check via phone to head community pump minders/water committee members to gather information on the visual turbidity and any concerns with the taste or smell will be implemented. However, for now this remains a challenge with internet and cellular communication off or intermittent (8, 9, 10).

As soon as any WP area is considered safe to visit and test at in the region, WQT will be planned and implemented, regardless of quarter/time period etc.

8. [Ethiopia's Amhara region requests federal help over militia unrest | Reuters](#)
9. [Ethiopia: Abiy Ahmed's gov't extended state of emergency \(borkena.com\)](#)
10. [Amhara conflict: Ethiopians massacred in their homes by government troops - BBC News](#)

3.3.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

N/A

3.4 | Documents:

WQT results by quarter achieved MP2.xls

| Version number | Release date | Description |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| 5 | 11.04.2022 | Additional information added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - date of listing, design certification, transition - standard version - specific reference to a requirement deviated from - any previous deviations/design changes approved Guidance on VVB opinion |
| 4 | 14.01.2021 | |
| 3 | 16.07.2020 | |
| 2 | 03.05.2018 | |
| 1 | 01.07.2017 | Initial adoption |