

SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

The Sustainability Snapshot is a rapid assessment tool developed by WaterAid in Malawi to determine the likelihood that a water supply system will remain functioning in the future. It can be applied to existing infrastructure or to evaluate a community's ability to manage future installations. Stakeholders at the community and district level are asked to rate their confidence in relation to three thematic areas (finance, technical skills, spare parts and equipment). The snapshot seeks to determine if the community has: 1) the funds to carry out repairs, 2) the skills to carry out repairs, and 3) access to the necessary spare parts and equipment to carry out repairs. The scores of the snapshot are used to determine strengths and weakness with regard to community management of water supply infrastructure. WaterAid found that rather than evaluating the sustainability of individual water points, the snapshot was most useful when used to highlight key issues that may be undermining sustainability across a region, district or country. Because of the straightforward nature of the snapshot, the level of effort required is minimal (e.g. assessment in one community per day).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: Local government, project planners and managers involved with community managed water supply interventions.

Objective: To determine the financial and technical capacity of the community-managed water system as well as the availability of spare parts and equipment.

Areas: Financial, technical, spare parts/equipment

Indicators: N/A

Methodology: Stakeholders select one statement from a choice of three statements for each of the three sustainability 'themes'. The statements are analogous to a Likert scale (e.g. none=1, some=2, all=3). Points are awarded for each theme, and an overall sustainability score is obtained by aggregating.

Outputs: A score for each theme (1-3) and an overall sustainability score (3-9)

Tool format and language: PDF; English

Resource Link: <http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/indicators-water-sector-malawi.pdf>

<p>Financial</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No funds available for maintenance when needed 2. Fund available but not sufficient for the most expensive maintenance 3. Fund available and sufficient for the most expensive maintenance <p>Technical skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical skills not available for maintenance when needed 2. Some technical skills for maintenance, but not for all 3. Technical skills for all maintenance processes available <p>Equipment and spare parts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not available when needed 2. Available but not for all repairs 3. Available for all repairs

IMPACT AND FINDINGS

The Sustainability Snapshot was developed in 2003 in Malawi. Since then it has been applied extensively in Malawi and Uganda. The process has been adapted for sanitation using four areas (i.e. sanitation facilities, use of latrine, hand washing, maintenance of safe water chain). In addition to using the Sustainability Snapshot as a project assessment tool, it has also been used by WaterAid Malawi as a tool for rapid appraisal of the investment priorities in their project areas.

Strengths	Limitations
<p>Straightforward evaluation, analysis, and interpretation</p> <p>Participatory processes ensure that the perspectives of various stakeholders are represented</p>	<p>Assumes that measuring dependent factors (i.e. financial, technical, and spare parts/equipment) accounts for all the preconditions or independent variables (e.g. institutional training)</p> <p>Maybe considered overly simplistic</p>