TECHNOLOGY APPLICABILITY FRAMEWORK (TAF) AND TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCTION PROCESS (TIP)

The WASHTech consortium began a project in 2011 with the goal of strengthening sector capacity to make effective investments in new WASH technologies. The Technology Applicability Framework (TAF) was created as a tool to obtain a consolidated picture of the applicability, scalability and sustainability of individual WASH technologies that are implemented in a specific context for providing lasting services. It can be used as a planning assessment tool and also for monitoring during and after implementation. TAF not only assesses WASH technologies, but in coordination with the Technology Introduction Process (TIP), can be used to identify the crucial links and interdependencies between technologies and investment models that are used to introduce these technologies. To date TAF and TIP have been applied in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Nicaragua and Tanzania a total of 20 times. The main costs are related to transportation, allowances and accommodations for participants and have been approximately US$3,000 per technology assessment and region.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: District and national government, R&D institutions in developing countries, donors/development partners, local and INGOs, small and medium enterprises, training and academic institutions.

Objective: Project the applicability, scalability and sustainability of individual WASH technologies.

Areas: Social, economic, environmental, institutional, technological, and knowledge.

Indicators: Each of the 6 areas has one indicator related to each of three different perspectives of key actors involved: 1) user/buyer, 2) producer/provider, or 3) regulator/investor/facilitator. Each of the 18 indicators has between two and six sub-indicator questions for a total of 57 questions.

Methodology: Data collection methods include a desk study of secondary data and focus group meetings with key stakeholders, as well as limited household surveys using joint field visits. Scoring of the indicators is done by the focus groups involving all key actors. They answer the guiding questions on a scale of 3 levels (negative, neutral, positive). Answers are aggregated qualitatively and the 18 indicator scores are presented in a traffic light system (green = positive, yellow = neutral or partial impact, red = critical/alert). If there is disagreement in the group or the basis for the scoring is unclear a black icon and a question mark are used.

Output: In the form of a traffic light per indicator. The output graphic can be interpreted by looking at each row or 'dimension' (e.g. score for environment), each column or 'perspective' (e.g. score for user), and the overall profile (e.g. score for technology) or specific issues (e.g. O&M).

Tool format and language: Available in hard copy, PDF and Word formats; English & French (Spanish to come).

Resource link: http://www.washtechnologies.net
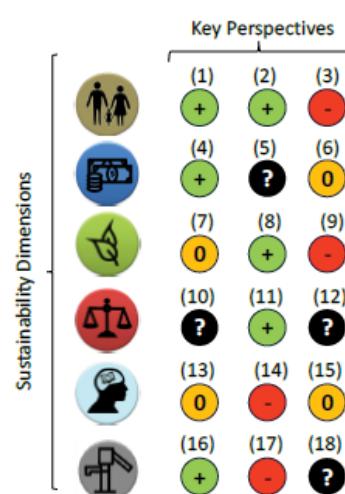
IMPACT AND FINDINGS

TAF identifies issues related to each technology as well as issues related to the enabling environment and through the TIP addresses the design of how to introduce each technology. To date the tool has been applied in coordination with national ministries in each of the three host countries. A memorandum of understanding is being established with all three governments for the use of TAF and TIP in their WASH programme planning. Additionally the TAF has been used in Tanzania and Nicaragua, in the latter country without any external support.

Strengths	Limitations
Comprehensive assessment of sustainability across six areas	Methodology focuses on a specific technology
Can be used as a pre-implementation tool	Results are dependent on the skills of the focus group facilitator
Participative process including all relevant stakeholders	Relies on information derived from select individuals
The outputs motivate stakeholders' dialogue and have the potential to inform sector/policy development	