

SUSTAINABILITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

This tool is designed to be used by organisations that implement WASH services and interventions. It focuses on the organisations' internal policies and practices. The objective of the tool is to help determine an organisation's performance across four guiding areas, to reveal where policies and practices support sustainable WASH service delivery and the greatest opportunities for improvement. The tool can be used by a small group of core staff in a quick assessment lasting only an hour or so. Equally, the tool can be used as part of an organisation-wide assessment process, reaching from headquarters to field, involving many staff and carried out over the course of one or more days in a workshop setting. The cost of applying the tool is dependent on the number of staff involved and overall detail.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: Staff from any organisations working on WASH programming either as implementers or funding agencies.

Objective: To measure an organisation's performance in promoting sustainable outcomes from its projects.

Areas: Policy, knowledge, coordination, and monitoring and learning.

Indicators: Each area has a number of indicators: policy (3), knowledge (1), coordination (3), and monitoring and learning (2). There are 2-4 guiding questions for each indicator; however the respondent(s) is required to enter a single score, from 0 to 100 for each of the 9 indicators.

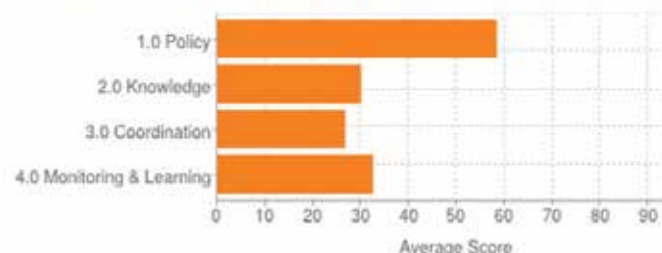
Methodology: An individual or group from each organisation must create an online account and respond to a series of questions. The self-scoring system is as follows: a score of 0 indicates no action or progress toward achieving the practices; a score of 100 indicates the organization uses all best practices. Scores are generated by general area based on the average of indicator scores, and resources are recommended for areas where self assessment scores are low (i.e. less than 30%).

Outputs: Scores for each of the four areas (policy, knowledge, coordination, and monitoring and learning) presented in bar chart form and recommendations and resources to guide remedial action where called for.

Tool format and language: Web-based, in English and Spanish.

Resource Link: <http://www.sustainablewash.org/selfassess>

Self-Assessment Scores



IMPACT AND FINDINGS

The Sustainability Self Assessment tool is the result of the momentum created by a series of meetings that brought together over 100 stakeholders from some 50 organisations to develop a common set of sustainability principles, which became the WASH Sustainability Charter. The tool is hosted by SustainableWASH.org, a platform used to promote the Sustainability Charter and the Self Assessment Tool. To date 131 organisations have signed the Sustainability Charter, qualifying them as a one star organization. Seventeen organisations have signed the Sustainability Charter and completed the Sustainability Self Assessment, giving them two stars. To receive three stars an organisation needs to have an assessment conducted by an external organisation, however to date no organisation has done this. El Porvenir, a Nicaraguan NGO utilised the tool to guide their organisational strategy for 2014 and also translated the tool into Spanish (which is currently available on the website).

Strengths	Limitations
Easy to use and automatically generates recommendations on how to improve areas of weakness	Not designed to assess sustainability at the level of individual projects
Useful as a means to stimulate internal discussion on issues of sustainability	No independent verification of the responses has been done to date
Any organisation, however large or small, can use the tool since it is not necessarily tied to any scale of intervention	The tool is not available to be modified in its current format
The tool reflects on the organisation itself, including its internal policies, training and planning mechanisms	