

THE GOVERNANCE INTO FUNCTIONALITY TOOL (GIFT)

The Governance into Functionality Tool probes into the issue of governance of improved water points in rural communities, and has been designed to allow aggregation of data in a simple and systematic way from community to commune/district and regional levels. The tool includes a set of questions that reveal issues around the effectiveness of community governance structures to maintain public water points. There are twenty questions in the framework, which shed light on key issues in four areas: participation, accountability, transparency, and cost recovery. The findings can alert implementers or local governments to any patterns of weaknesses that need addressing and provide a mechanism to identify communities that are facing problems. The cost and level of effort required to implement the GiFT could not be estimated at this time.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: Project or programme staff, commune/district authorities.

Objective: To assess efforts to improve governance, environmental protection and risk management.

Areas: Governance is defined with the following: accountability, inclusiveness, participation, and transparency. Functionality is assessed through a technical audit (using various different indicators).

Indicators: For the governance framework, each of the four areas has five indicator questions, for a total of 20 questions.

Methodology: The 20 indicator questions are asked to stakeholders at the community level through key informant interviews or focus group discussions with community management committees. Each indicator is scored from 1-3 based upon a system developed by project staff and government stakeholders. The indicator scores are aggregated for an area score and can further be presented as an overall score (percent). The quantitative data can be presented alongside qualitative information that is collected through the focus groups with the community management committees.

Outputs: Indicator and area score.

Tool format and language: Word document; English.

Resource Link: This tool along with other resources are available: <http://water.care2share.wikispaces.net/TOOLS>

IMPACT AND FINDINGS

Slightly different versions of the GiFT have been applied in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania through CARE's Global Water Initiative (GWI). However, the methodology and frameworks have differed considerably with subsequent applications of the tool. To date the GiFT has been used in coordination with the Gender Analysis Tool.

Strengths	Limitations
Participatory process which captures the perspectives of community level stakeholders	The process of scoring of the indicators could be clarified
Once scored the aggregation process is straight forward	Focus of the GiFT is limited to the community level; external enabling conditions effecting functionality are absent
Can be administered by non-WASH experts	Links to specific recommendations needs to be improved