

SUSTAINABILITY MONITORING FRAMEWORK (SMF)

The Dutch WASH Alliance (DWA) is a network of NGOs which developed a Sustainability Monitoring Framework (SMF) to measure the extent to which each NGO contributes to sustainable WASH service delivery in their projects. The objective of the SMF is to both highlight the absence of issues which have proven to lead to low sustainability and the presence of factors that promote sustainability. So far, the SMF has been pilot tested in Uganda and Ghana by a total of nine organisations in collaboration with local authorities. These assessments have been funded either by DWA or the partners themselves. The SMF is meant to be included in the on-going programme monitoring and as a result the costs are considered limited; in Uganda the cost of applying the tool was US\$1650.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: Donors and implementing organisations.

Objectives: Assess the presence or absence of factors with a proven impact on sustainability (positive or negative).

Areas: Financial, Institutional, Environmental, Technical and Social (FIETS).

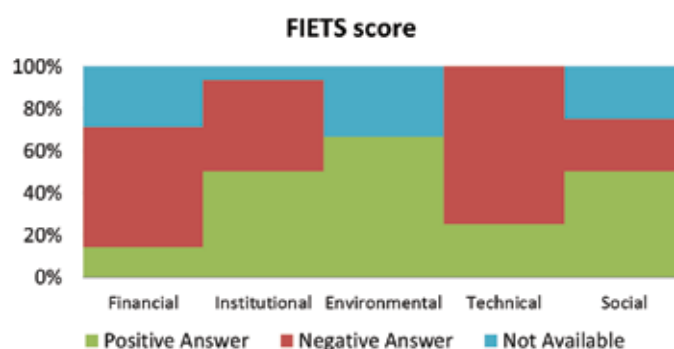
Indicators: Specifically developed for each country and intervention.

Methodology: Primary data collected through surveys and focus group discussions are used along with a literature review to determine a score (positive effect, negative effective, or no effect) for each indicator. No weighting factors are used in the framework and the questions and sampling methodology are adapted to each context.

Outputs: A series of Excel-based graphs presenting the results for each FIETS dimension. In addition, a 'reliability' score describes the number of questions that are answered and an overall sustainability score represents the aggregate of the five dimension scores.

Tool format and language: Excel and Word document; English.

Reference link: <http://www.washalliance.nl/>



IMPACT AND FINDINGS

Since piloting was limited to two countries and is very recent, it is too early to determine the impact it has had on the sustainability of the programmes monitored. However, DWA partners have reported that the SMF has motivated them to actively think about sustainability issues and to measure progress towards the likelihood that their work can be sustained.

Strengths	Limitations
It considers factors related to preconditions of sustainability	Only at the pilot stage; too early to see any impact
Flexible and allows for many adaptations (selection of relevant questions for each organisation/intervention)	The built-in flexibility requires adaptation from organisations often used to 'ready-made' tools (questions, surveys)
Automated results presented in an intuitive way	Complexity of data entry and application of formula by organisations to produce results—potential for a more user-friendly programme
Good potential for scalability amongst the 50 DWA partners with a low cost to apply	
Reliability score ensures quality of results	