

# WASH SUSTAINABILITY SECTOR ASSESSMENT TOOL

This tool allows programme development partner staff to make an assessment of the WASH sector from a sustainability perspective in any given country. It was developed under the Triple-S initiative by IRC and Aguaconsult, originally at the request of USAID, and draws on aspects of a similar tool developed by AGUASAN with funding from the Swiss Development Corporation. The tool can be applied with differing levels of intensity from a quick 'brainstorm' type approach taking one or two people a few hours, all the way through to a structured workshop type approach that may last several days. Costs of application can therefore range between a few hundred dollars and several thousand.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

**Target:** Development partner staff with responsibility for the design and programming of WASH sector investments and implementation.

**Objectives:** To provide a better understanding of programme design, priorities and decision-making within the context of the sector level as opposed to individual project level, as well as identifying key weaknesses or bottlenecks.

**Areas:** Policy, legislation and institutions, financing, planning, transparency and accountability, capacity, sector learning and knowledge management, harmonisation and alignment, and environment.

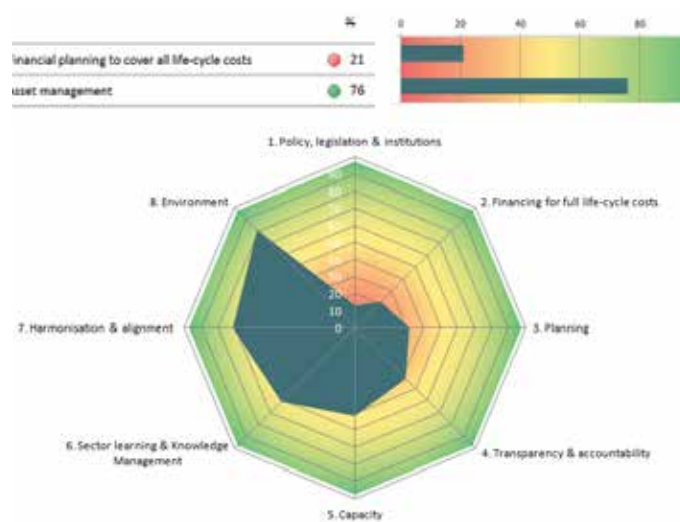
**Indicators:** Each area has a number of indicators: policy, legislation and institutions (5), financing (2), planning (3), transparency and accountability (3), capacity (2), sector learning and knowledge management (1), harmonisation and alignment (2), and environment (1).

**Methodology:** Three or four guiding questions help the respondent determine a single score, from 0 to 100, for each indicator. Indicator scores are averaged for an area score.

**Outputs:** Relative strengths or weaknesses of the WASH sector in a given country are summarized graphically through a bar chart for indicator scores and a radar diagram for the area scores.

**Tool format and Language:** Excel file; English.

**Resource Link:** [http://www.waterservicesthatlast.org/media/files/wash\\_sustainability\\_assessment\\_tool\\_beta](http://www.waterservicesthatlast.org/media/files/wash_sustainability_assessment_tool_beta)



## IMPACT AND FINDINGS

To date the tool has not been proactively disseminated and so the use and impact on organisations is uncertain. The tool has been downloaded 156 times over 10 months.

Strengths	Limitations
Fully automatic and easy to use	The tool is not available to be modified in its current format
The tool is interactive and used to walk the user through a series of critical areas relating to WASH and to trigger reflection and flag any areas for further investigation that appear to be weak or poorly developed	The tool was not fully finalised and some of the indicators require refinement
Provides a framework for general guidance, and could be modified to fit country context	Each country assessment will be unique and may require the investigation of complementary areas depending on the sector, the history of decentralisation and the level of aid dependency
	No specific guidelines are provided to inform the process of modification