



10 September 2016

# Monitoring for Sustainability

## Report on a learning seminar

By John Butterworth and Tereza Nega

This report is the summary of the Learning Seminar on Monitoring for Sustainability organized by IRC with the National WASH Coordination Office, UNICEF, COWASH Project and Aguaconsult on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at Geffam Hotel, Addis Ababa. The seminar aimed at sharing some of the latest experiences in monitoring for sustainability, and identifying next steps for the wider use of relevant tools within the Consolidated WaSH Account (CWA) and the wider One WaSH National Programme.

Authors: John Butterworth and Tereza Nega  
Reviewer: John Butterworth  
Editing: John Butterworth  
Proofreading: Tereza Nega  
Layout and design: Petra Brusse

For questions or clarifications, contact IRC Ethiopia: [ethiopia@ircwash.org](mailto:ethiopia@ircwash.org)  
[www.ircwash.org/ethiopia](http://www.ircwash.org/ethiopia)

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## Abbreviations

CLTSH – Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene

CSA – Central Statistics Agency

CWA – Consolidated WaSH Account

DFID – Department for International Development

GTP2 – Growth and Transformation Plan 2

OWNP – ONE WASH National Programme

MoWIE – Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy

SDG – Sustainable Development

UNICEF – United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

## Background

A Learning Seminar on Monitoring for Sustainability was organized by IRC with the One WaSH National Program, UNICEF, COWASH Project and Aguaconsult on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at Getfam Hotel, Addis Ababa. The seminar aimed at sharing some of the latest experiences in monitoring for sustainability, and identifying next steps for the wider use of relevant tools within the Consolidated WaSH Account (CWA) and the wider One WaSH National Programme.

The sustainability of improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene services is a critical concern for sector stakeholders whether consumers, service providers, service authorities, politicians or donors. In its second Growth and Transformation Plan the government has identified specific measures to improve functionality and ensure high service levels are maintained. This includes more post-construction support units and enhanced capacity. Monitoring also has a crucial role to play. Spotting and reporting gaps in service delivery (operational monitoring) or capacity and other aspects of the enabling environment is currently a major area of innovation. At the same time, the OWNP is developing its M&E systems, and other key initiatives include new O&M guidelines for rural water supply.

In small towns, UNICEF/DFIDs One WASH Plus Programme has trialled the use of Sustainability Checks to improve performance. Sustainability Checks capture occasional but regular information about the functionality of infrastructure and quality of WaSH services received by users as well as the capacity and performance of the institutions providing services and related support. In rural areas, Aguaconsult has applied the Sustainability Index Tool working with Save the Children and USAID. Similar tools have also been developed with a focus on sanitation. Such assessments aim to trigger medium to long-term actions and capacity building at a range of levels to improve sustainability.

At the seminar, case studies on the various initiatives were presented and critical questions on their scalability and wider uptake were addressed.

## Objective

To share some of the latest experiences in monitoring for sustainability, and to identify next steps for the wider use of relevant tools within the Consolidated WaSH Account (CWA) and the wider One WaSH National Programme.

## Expected Results

The expectation was for the following questions to be addressed with respect to the wider practice of sustainability monitoring:

- What is the potential and relevance for further uptake of sustainability assessments and checks?
- What are the costs and resource requirements of such checks, and what else is required for their wider application?

- How can we move from project based innovation (often by NGOs) to sector wide application?
- How can sustainability checks be integrated with, and make use of data, within OWNPN M&E systems as these are developed?
- What are the similarities and differences between monitoring for sustainability in water supply, and sanitation and hygiene?

## Participants

Thirty seven participants from the WaSH sector and Development partners were present on the Seminar.

## Summary and key highlights

An opening remark was given by, Mr. Nuredin Mohammed, Water Supply and Sanitation Directorate at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE). Nuredin said, “In the past GTP1 years the government has been giving attention to clean water supply where by more than 160,000 water schemes have been constructed and in order for the schemes to be sustainable we need to work on the sustainability issues.” He further stated that in GTP2 sustainability is given more attention than construction and it is time to look at best examples of sustainability check tools in Ethiopia, as well as in other countries, so they can be scaled up for implementation. This set the scene for the seminar well, followed up by critical introductions from Mohammed Ibrahim (National WASH Coordination Office) and Tamene Hailu (Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity)

All the presentations, including the small town and rural case studies on application of Sustainability Checks in Ethiopia can be downloaded at:

1. OWNPN & Sustainability  
[http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/1\\_mohammed\\_ownpn-sustainability.pdf](http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/1_mohammed_ownpn-sustainability.pdf)
2. Development of National WASH M&E System and the Monitoring of Sustainability  
[http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/2\\_tamene\\_development\\_of\\_national\\_wash\\_me\\_systems\\_and\\_the\\_0.pdf](http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/2_tamene_development_of_national_wash_me_systems_and_the_0.pdf)
3. Sustainability Checks and Plans for Small Towns in the ONEWASH Plus Programme  
[http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/3\\_marieke\\_presentation\\_sustainability\\_checks\\_owp\\_final\\_0.pdf](http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/3_marieke_presentation_sustainability_checks_owp_final_0.pdf)
4. Sustainability Index Tool  
[http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/4\\_ryan\\_sustainability\\_monitoring\\_works\\_hop\\_20160808\\_v2\\_0.pdf](http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/4_ryan_sustainability_monitoring_works_hop_20160808_v2_0.pdf)
5. Sustainability Monitoring Framework  
[http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/5\\_angela\\_presentation\\_smf\\_ethiopia\\_2\\_0.pdf](http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/5_angela_presentation_smf_ethiopia_2_0.pdf)
6. Monitoring ODF Sustainability  
[http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/6\\_atnafa\\_presentation\\_on\\_monitoring\\_sustainability-final\\_0.pdf](http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/6_atnafa_presentation_on_monitoring_sustainability-final_0.pdf)
7. CLTS Rapid Appraisal Protocol “CRAP” For Sanitation/ODF Sustainability  
[http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/7\\_jane\\_crap\\_for\\_sustainability\\_0.pdf](http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/7_jane_crap_for_sustainability_0.pdf)
8. The National RWS O&M Management Manual and Strategic Framework  
[http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/8\\_arto\\_national\\_rws\\_omm\\_manual\\_and\\_strategic\\_framework\\_sustainability\\_arto\\_0.pdf](http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/8_arto_national_rws_omm_manual_and_strategic_framework_sustainability_arto_0.pdf)

Based on the presentations and discussions some critical insights were:

- The GoE is developing its OWNPN M&E systems and there is an opportunity to include relevant indicators in these integrated data management systems
- The use of data from improved national M&E systems could greatly facilitate, and make quicker and faster, sustainability checks. This could help justify investments in OWNPN M&E systems.
- Sustainable checks may then be analyse, reporting and learning exercises rather than method development and data collection exercises.
- Other ways to speed up and reduce costs include making more use of local capacities such as universities, TVETs etc.
- A lot of data is already available for analysis, especially at town level.
- There are similarities and differences between water and sanitation but both are recognized to be fragile and require monitoring for sustainability
- Going from sustainability checks to implementing sustainability plans has been a challenge in the One WASH Plus Programme.
- There is an opportunity now to further sustainability checks as the Ministry is revised critical documents and planning for the MTR of the CWA. If there is a need for additional indicators related to sustainability, this is the time to include it.
- The National WaSH Inventory will be conducted soon and there will be MIS at woreda level, which will make data more accessible. In every district there will be entry of data because the system will be there. The format that we are going to use for the National WaSH Inventory will also be changed. Sustainability indicators can be included.
- What we have seen are examples of what can be done with data, which can be used for decision making. Conclusion of today is that we have seen something that can be done in the future. If we can make progress with M&E.
- Sustainability Checks take a top down approach. Are there opportunities to link to more bottom up processes like Water Safety Plans?
- Involvement of NGOs alone is not enough. Need to include higher learning institutes. Some of the sustainability checks need experts on research. We need PhD students to do research on sustainability checks.

## Conclusion

The seminar put the practice of Sustainability Checks on the agenda, and shared key lessons from existing applications in Ethiopia. Clearly, Sustainability Checks need to be simplified if there is to be wider uptake, but uptake will also be hugely boosted by the better data that is expected to become available through new and improved WASH M&E systems. Sustainability Checks show what can be done with such data.

## Pictures



Participants of the Seminar



Discussion at the seminar



Panel Discussion at the seminar

**Visiting address**

Golagul Towers Building, 8<sup>th</sup> floor No. 804  
Bole sub city, Woreda 4  
House no 275/276  
Addis Abeba  
Ethiopia

**Postal address**

P.O. Box 2  
Code 1251  
Addis Abeba  
Ethiopia

[ethiopia@ircwash.org](mailto:ethiopia@ircwash.org)  
[www.ircwash.org/ethiopia](http://www.ircwash.org/ethiopia)