

SUSTAINABILITY CHECK

Since 2008, UNICEF Mozambique has implemented six rounds of sustainability checks for the 'One Million Initiative' rural WASH programme (2007-2013). This monitoring tool was designed to be used by independent auditors to assess the sustainability of the WASH facilities and make recommendations to programme managers. The average cost is US\$65,000 per assessment. Other UNICEF country programmes in Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia have developed similar checks greatly inspired from the check developed in Mozambique.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: UNICEF project and programme planners.

Objective: To assess the sustainability WASH infrastructure.

Areas: 5 weighted factors: institutional (10%), social (40%), financial (10%), technical (30%) and sanitation (10%) (these have evolved over time to include sanitation as independent factor).

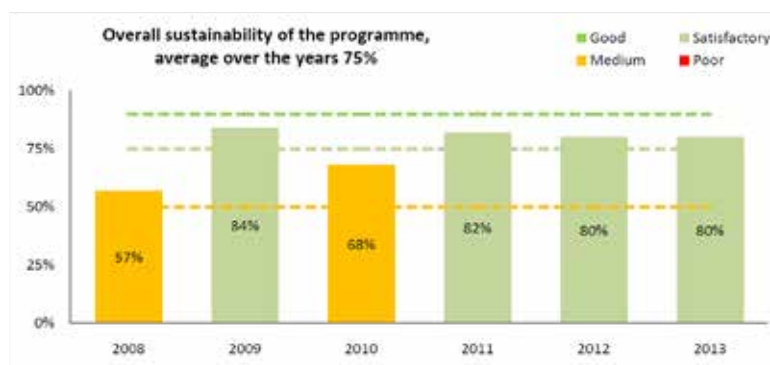
Indicators: Defined for each factor and allocated a score based on responses to sub-indicator questions at the community and district levels.

Methodology: Random sampling is carried out on 10% of programme interventions (water points and open defecation free (ODF) villages). Data is collected through semi-structured focus groups with the district authorities, facility audits of water points, audits of ODF villages and semi-structured household surveys in ODF villages. Indicator scores are averaged to obtain a factor score and then an overall score aggregated to the provincial and programmatic level using averages.

Outputs: Scores and recommendations conveyed through a management memo and audit statement to inform decision makers' corrective action.

Tool format and language: PDF; English.

Resource link: <http://www.unicef.org>



IMPACT AND FINDINGS

UNICEF has taken follow-up actions, for example, more rigorous technical checks of materials and construction techniques triggered by the identification of the poor quality of latrines. There is potential for uptake by the Government of Mozambique which has included a budget line in its annual sector budget for 2014.

Strengths	Limitations
First sustainability check tool developed (2008)	Tool may not easily transferable to local government
Example of most repeated application (6 times)	Lack of sub-indicators focusing on district functions and national policies related to sustainable WASH
Quantitative and rigorous tool for a limited cost	Remains a programme monitoring tool for UNICEF with limited impact beyond the One Million Initiative programme
Allows UNICEF to keep better track of programmes and provides the government with a snapshot of sustainability that cannot be found in the current system	Lack of ownership of the tool by national and local government
Provides a useful combination of easily interpreted scoring with actionable recommendations and lays the grounds for 'friendly competition' amongst provinces	Cost may be a barrier to uptake by government
Encouraging signs of uptake by the Government of Mozambique	