

Environmental Sanitation Inspection Form: Domestic Wastewater Management



Part 1. General information:

- a. Location:
- b. Village/Town:
- c. People served:
- d. Date of visit:

Part 2. Risk assessment: Please adapt this form for the local context. Remove questions that are not appropriate and add questions that are appropriate.

Walk through the community to observe practices and ask community members questions. Be respectful of the community and local traditions. When necessary, seek permission from community leaders to do the inspection.

Circle 'Yes' if there is a potential risk and 'No' if there is no or very low risk. Add notes to the results and comments section on the next page. See explanation on the next page for details about each question.

	Question	Observation	
		Yes	No
1	Is untreated blackwater disposed in areas where it can contact people or animals?	Yes	No
2	Is untreated blackwater used to irrigate crops?	Yes	No
3	Is there a lack of drainage channels in the community for rainwater?	Yes	No
4	Are drainage channels blocked by solid waste, vegetation or silt?	Yes	No
5	Are there wells or boreholes where the drainage is absent or faulty allowing water to pool within 2 m of the drinking water source?	Yes	No
6	Are there drainage channels that are absent, cracked, broken or in need of cleaning?	Yes	No
7	Is there standing water in other locations in the community?	Yes	No
Risk of contamination (add the number of 'Yes' answers)			

Part 3. Results and comments:

a. Risk of contamination (check the appropriate box):

7 = Very high	5-6 = High	3-4 = Medium	0-2 = Low

b. The following risks were observed:

Part 4. Name and signature of inspectors:

Explanatory Notes: Domestic Wastewater Management

- Is untreated blackwater disposed in areas where it can contact people or animals?* Blackwater is wastewater that has been used to flush a toilet or latrine and contains excreta (e.g., sewage). Blackwater should be disposed in areas where it will not contact people or animals. This water has many pathogens in it, and is a high risk of contamination if disposed of close to humans or animals.
- Is untreated blackwater used to irrigate crops?* Blackwater is wastewater that has been used to flush a toilet or latrine and contains excreta (e.g., sewage). This water has many pathogens in it, and is a high risk of contamination if used to irrigate crops for people or animals to eat. It is recommended that blackwater only be used to irrigate crops that will not be eaten raw (WHO, 2006).
- Is there a lack of drainage channels in the community for rainwater?* Drainage channels carry rainwater away from households, to prevent standing water. Drainage channels can be used to carry wastewater to be treated, infiltrated into the ground or to irrigate crops. Observe if the community has enough drainage channels to prevent standing water.
- Are drainage channels blocked by solid waste, vegetation or silt?* Drainage channels need to be clear of solid waste, vegetation, and silt to work well. Observe whether the drainage channels are unblocked and clear of debris.
- Are there wells or boreholes where the drainage is absent or faulty allowing water to pool within 2 m of the drinking water source?* If pools of water collect around the well or borehole they may provide a way for contaminants to enter the source (WHO, 2012).
- Are there drainage channels that are absent, cracked, broken or in need of cleaning?* Poor construction or maintenance of the drainage channel, leading to cracks or breaks, is a high

risk to water quality, especially when combined with water spillage and poor sanitary conditions (WHO, 2012).

7. *Is there standing water in other locations in the community?* Standing water can spread pathogens and breed vectors. Poor drainage and drainage management can cause more frequent and severe flooding, spreading contamination. There is a high risk of spreading pathogens and disease.

Additional Resources

CAWST (2014). Environmental Sanitation Inspection Forms. CAWST, Calgary, Canada. Available at: www.cawst.org/resources.

- Use this form with the other Environmental Sanitation Inspection forms.

CAWST (2013). Technical Brief: Domestic Wastewater Treatment, Use and Disposal. CAWST, Calgary, Canada. Available at: www.cawst.org/resources.

- This technical brief discusses how to safely and properly compost organic waste in developing countries.

References

Stockholm Environment Institute (1998). Proxy Indicators for Rapid Assessment of Environmental Health Status of Residential Areas: The Case of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA), Ghana. Available at: <http://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/Songsore-1998-Proxy.pdf>

World Health Organization (2006). Guidelines for the Safe Use of Wastewater, Excreta and Greywater. WHO, Geneva, Switzerland. Available at: www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/wastewater/en/

World Health Organization (2012). Rapid Assessment of Drinking-Water Quality: A Handbook for Implementation. WHO, Geneva, Switzerland. Available at: www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2012/rapid_assessment/en/index.html

CAWST (Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology)
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Wellness through Water.... Empowering People Globally
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