

Environmental Sanitation Inspection Form: Solid Waste 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	
1	Are there uncollected piles of solid waste in the community?	Yes	No
2	Are waste disposal sites located within 500 metres from drinking water sources?	Yes	No
3	Are waste disposal sites located in an area with a high water table and/or susceptible to flooding?	Yes	No
4	Are waste disposal sites covered regularly (e.g., daily or weekly) with soil or ash?	Yes	No
5	Is there a fence around waste disposal sites?	Yes	No
6	Do people unsafely scavenge for waste materials?	Yes	No
7	Do animals roam in waste disposal sites?	Yes	No
8	Is there uncontrolled burning of solid waste?	Yes	No
9	Does solid waste block drainage channels?	Yes	No
10	Is solid waste disposed in other water sources (e.g., lagoons, rivers)?	Yes	No
11	Is hazardous waste (e.g., medical waste, chemicals, batteries) collected and disposed separately from household waste?	Yes	No
Risk of contamination (add the number of 'Yes' answers)			

Part 3. Results and comments:

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

9-11 = Very high	6-8 = High	3-5 = Medium	0-2 = Low

b. The following risks were observed:

Part 4. Name and signature of inspectors:

Explanatory Notes: Solid Waste Management

1. *Are there uncollected piles of solid waste in the community?* Irregular or no formal waste collection services exposes people to waste and increases the risk of disease transmission. Uncollected solid waste can be a breeding site for disease vectors, including flies, mosquitos and rodents.
2. *Are waste disposal sites located within 500 metres from drinking water sources?* This distance can help to protect ground and surface water from becoming contaminated.
3. *Are waste disposal sites located in an area with a high water table and/or susceptible to flooding?* Disposal sites should be located in areas with a lower water table and that are not susceptible to flooding. This can help to protect soil, groundwater and surface water from becoming contaminated.
4. *Are waste disposal sites covered regularly (e.g., daily or weekly) with soil or ash?* Waste disposal sites should be covered with 0.1 metres of soil or ash regularly (e.g., daily or weekly) to reduce odours and disease vectors, as well as prevent waste from blowing away.
5. *Is there a fence around waste disposal sites?* Waste disposal sites should have a fence to keep animals and children out of the area. As well, fences can prevent lighter materials (e.g., plastic bags) from blowing away. Children are especially vulnerable to risks from solid waste. They often play outside and might pick up waste materials that adults know to avoid.
6. *Do people unsafely scavenge for waste materials?* Waste picking without the use of personal safety equipment (such as gloves, masks and shoes) increases people's risk of diarrhea, infections and respiratory illnesses. Punctures caused by pieces of glass or needles are very common and can lead to infections, tetanus, hepatitis or HIV.

7. *Do animals roam in waste disposal sites?* Animals often look for food among waste disposal sites. They can become vectors of different diseases and increase the spread of waste in the environment.
8. *Is there uncontrolled burning of solid waste?* Uncontrolled burning can result in large fires at disposal sites. As well, the smoke contributes to air pollution and can cause respiratory problems. It may be necessary to burn household waste if landfill space is very limited. In this case, it is best to burn the waste as far as possible from people, keep it contained in a pit or barrel to prevent the fire from uncontrolled spreading, and burn it as hot as possible. The ashes may be contaminated and should be disposed of in a pit or landfill.
9. *Does solid waste block drainage channels?* Blocked drains can cause increased flooding, especially in high-density urban areas. Blocked drains can create standing water, which is an ideal breeding site for mosquitos.
10. *Is solid waste disposed in other water sources (e.g., lagoons, rivers)?* Waste can block water sources and cause increased flooding. Liquid produced from waste can contaminate the water source.
11. *Is hazardous waste (e.g., medical waste, chemicals, batteries) collected and disposed separately from household waste?* Hazardous waste includes toxic waste, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and batteries. Do not dispose hazardous waste in latrines, drainage channels, water sources or on the ground. Hazardous waste that is disposed with household waste is dangerous, especially for waste pickers.

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: Solid Waste Management. CAWST, Calgary, Canada. Available at: www.cawst.org/resources.

- This technical brief discusses how to treat waste through recycling, composting and incineration. It discusses hazardous waste, menstrual hygiene waste as well as solid waste attitudes.

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>

CAWST (Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology)
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Website: www.cawst.org Email: resources@cawst.org
Wellness through Water.... Empowering People Globally
Last Update: August 2014



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