

Environmental Sanitation Inspection Form: Excreta 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 | Do people practice open defecation (e.g., adults or children)? | Yes | No |
| 2 | Do people with access to a latrine practice open defecation? | Yes | No |
| 3 | Are there households that use unimproved latrines (e.g., pit latrine without a slab, open pit, hanging latrines, or bucket latrine)? | Yes | No |
| 4 | Are there latrines that overflow with excreta? | Yes | No |
| 5 | Are latrines poorly maintained or dirty? | Yes | No |
| 6 | Is there a latrine located less than 30 metres from a drinking water source? | Yes | No |
| 7 | Is there a latrine or other source of fecal contamination uphill of a drinking water source? | Yes | No |
| 8 | Do latrines sometimes fill with water during the year (e.g., during the rainy season)? | Yes | No |
| 9 | Are latrines contaminating other water sources (e.g., rivers, lakes)? | 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 = 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: Excreta Management**

1. *Do people practice open defecation (e.g., adults or children)?* Open defecation scatters human excreta in and near to the living environment where children, adults, animals, rodents and insects may come in contact with it. The risk of contamination and disease transmission is very high, especially in crowded living conditions. The risk is lower in a hot and dry climate or in a region where population density is very low.
2. *Do people with access to a latrine practice open defecation?* Open defecation scatters human excreta in and near to the living environment where children, adults, animals, rodents and insects may come in contact with it. The risk of contamination and disease transmission is very high, especially in crowded living conditions. The risk is lower in a hot and dry climate or in a region where population density is very low.
3. *Are there households that use unimproved latrines (e.g., pit latrine without a slab, open pit, hanging latrines, or bucket latrine)?* Unimproved latrines do not prevent contact between excreta, people and/or the environment. Therefore, they do not protect human and environmental health. These latrines present a high risk of contamination.
4. *Are there latrines that overflow with excreta?* Latrines that overflow with excreta do not prevent contact between excreta, people and/or the environment. Therefore, they do not protect human and environmental health. These latrines present a high risk of contamination.
5. *Are latrines poorly maintained or dirty?* Dirty latrines may have excreta on the slab or seat, garbage disposed of in the latrine, or have a hole cover that is dirty. Poorly maintained latrines may lack of a superstructure, superstructure is in poor condition, slab is in poor condition, or lack a hole cover. These latrines may not prevent contact between excreta, people and/or the environment. Therefore, they may not protect human and environmental health.

6. *Is there a latrine located less than 30 metres from a water source?* Latrines located less than 30 metres from a drinking water source may contaminate the source. There is a risk of contamination, depending on the soil and groundwater conditions (WHO, 2012).
7. *Is there a latrine or other source of fecal contamination uphill of a drinking water source?* Contamination on higher ground poses a risk, especially in the wet season, as excreta (and other contaminants) may flow into the water source. The risk is increased if no surface water diversion is present (WHO, 2012).
8. *Do latrines sometimes fill with water during the year (e.g., during the rainy season)?* Contamination of the groundwater occurs when latrines fill with water at any time of the year. There is a risk of contaminating drinking water sources such as wells, boreholes, or springs that are located near the latrine.
9. *Are latrines contaminating other water sources (e.g., rivers, lakes)?* People, animals and other communities may use other water sources such as rivers, lakes, lagoons, and streams. Contaminating any water source presents a risk of contamination and disease for people and animals.

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: Introduction to Sanitation. CAWST, Calgary, Canada. Available at: www.cawst.org/resources.

- This technical brief discusses the need for sanitation and its importance, explains the sanitation chain and gives a project framework for project implementers.

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/Songso-re-1998-Proxy.pdf>

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

World Health Organization (2005). Water Safety Plans: Managing Drinking-Water Quality from Catchment to Consumer. WHO, Geneva Switzerland. Available at: www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/wsp0506/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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