

## Introduction

A Baseline survey should be taken at the beginning of projects for the purpose of establishing a bench mark against which to measure change. The purpose of RWSSP is to improve health through the provision of water supply and sanitation and the impact survey attempts to determine those health improvements. Baseline Surveys establish information on several targets and indicators for each project, of which only those included in the original contract are included in the verification report. The impact of a project can be measured by following up on the verification report and the baseline survey and include some modifications;



It is useful to think of the Impact survey in three stages:

Stage 1: Have the project results been sustained/developed?. Is the water still flowing at the same rate and of the same/better quality? Are the latrines in good condition, have any more been built?

Stage 2: What are the behavioural changes arising as a result of the project results? Are people using the water supply,? How many people are using latrines, are they washing their hands? What additional sanitation/hygiene practises have been adopted?

Stage 3: what has been the impact of these changes. More time, better health? Hildren going to school more often?

## Methods

The impact survey should be done using participatory methods and with full involvement of

the community. The methods used should be recorded and could include one or more of the following:

- **Sample surveys**  
Collect quantifiable data through questionnaires. Usually a random sample and a matched control group are used to measure predetermined indicators before and after the intervention.
- **Rapid Appraisal**  
A range of tools and techniques developed originally as rapid rural appraisal (RRA). It involves the use of focus groups, semi-structured interview with key informants, case studies, participant observation and secondary sources.
- **Participatory Learning and Action**  
The preparation by the intended beneficiaries of a program of timelines, impact flow charts, village and resource maps, well being and wealth ranking, seasonal diagrams, problem ranking and institutional assessments through group processes assisted by a facilitator.
- **Impact photographs**  
Capturing photographs of situations and physical changes that have happened after the interventions. Capturing both the negative and the positive changes observed.

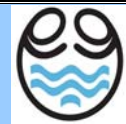


It is unusual to collect information from all members of the community (expensive, time consuming, unethical use of resources). So, it is better to collect data from a representative sample of the population than from the whole population.

## Key Questions - Sustainability

Health improvements will be more likely if the project is demonstrating sustainability. Therefore the following questions must be answered;

1. Is the water supply still working?



Look for evidence of leakage at the spring catchment, in the pipes, reservoir and water points, including drainage issues.

2. is the system being managed?

Evidence of community operation and maintenance

Check if the WATSAN committee is still functioning, and the level of community participation in maintaining the system, i.e. maintenance tariffs, breakdown procedures, etc (use the TAN Tool 7.1 Watsan Committee Checklist).

3. Are latrines newly constructed / improved, and being operated and maintained?

Check the standard of latrine (according to the latrine minimum standard). Is there evidence of latrine slabs being kept clean, lids used and vent pipes in place?

4. is there evidence of hand wash facilities, including soap?

Check for facilities at latrines and food preparation areas, and if the local market trade in soap has increased within the village?

### **Key Questions – Health**

Behavioural changes in relation to hygiene practice and sanitation strongly correlate with health improvements. It will be important that some of the key questions relating to health avoid leading the answers during community participation activities;

5. How has the incidence of diarrhoeal disease in the village changed, if at all, since the project was completed?

Interview the local aid post official to see if numbers of out-patients or medicine prescriptions have reduced recently. Try to establish without leading the answers, if the reductions in numbers are related to the project village(s). Establish if illness patterns have changed, if daily routines have changed or school attendances have increased. Have domestic and economic activities such as gardening and going to the market increased recently. Have more school books, clothes or cooking utensils been bought by some households?

6. Can the number of bathing times per day, be recorded against pre – project bathing, including clothes washing and utensil washing?

7. Is there evidence of additional sanitation infrastructure such as utensil tables, fencing around infrastructure, or animals

8. What are the methods of garbage disposal?

Is the method burning, open pits, open pits with layers of soil, buried pits with lids and/or recycling. Is this a change from one year ago?

All the data collected should be compiled and submitted electronically with any digital images to RWSSP and to other appropriate stakeholders.

The results of the impact study should be discussed with all key stakeholders both in the community and in the NSA. It is expected the impact survey provides evidence of improved health as a direct result of the implementation of the project.

### **Conclusions**

Baseline surveys are an important first step along the road for effectively monitoring project implementation and measuring impact and should be conducted with rigour and involve as many interested stakeholders as possible. Baselines will be necessary for you to develop indicators of achievement and give the project clear targets to strive for. Targets should be developed with beneficiary stakeholders in order to promote participation and ownership.

Project verification at the end of the project tells us whether our target results have been achieved.

Finally, Impact assessment measures whether results have been sustained, whether they have resulted in a change in behaviour, and what the impact of the project has been. If done in a participatory fashion, any positive results re-enforce changes in hygiene behaviour, negative results can act as a catalyst for change/improvement

Impact surveys should relate back to the questions and answers in the baseline survey, and include community endorsement statements and/or significant change stories.



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