

Sphere assessment checklist

1	General	651	4	Vector-borne disease	652
2	Water supply	651	5	Solid waste disposal	653
3	Excreta disposal	652	6	Drainage	653

WATER AND SANITATION INITIAL NEEDS-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST (SPHERE 2004)

This list of questions is primarily for use to assess needs, identify indigenous resources and describe local conditions. It does not include questions to determine external resources needed in addition to those immediately and locally available.

1 General

- How many people are affected and where are they? Disaggregate the data as far as possible by sex, age, disability etc.
- What are people's likely movements? What are the security factors for the people affected and for potential relief responses?
- What are the current or threatened water- and sanitation-related diseases? What are the extent and expected evolution of problems?
- Who are the key people to consult or contact?
- Who are the vulnerable people in the population and why?
- Is there equal access for all to existing facilities?
- What special security risks exist for women and girls?
- What water and sanitation practices were the population accustomed to before the emergency?

2 Water supply

- What is the current water source and who are the present users?
- How much water is available per person per day?
- What is the daily/weekly frequency of the water supply?
- Is the water available at the source sufficient for short-term and longer-term needs for all groups in the population?
- Are water collection points close enough to where people live? Are they safe?
- Is the current water supply reliable? How long will it last?
- Do people have enough water containers of the appropriate size and type?
- Is the water source contaminated or at risk of contamination (microbiological or chemical/radiological)?

- Is treatment necessary? Is treatment possible? What treatment is necessary?
- Is disinfection necessary, even if the supply is not contaminated?
- Are there alternative sources nearby?
- What traditional beliefs and practices relate to the collection, storage and use of water?
- Are there any obstacles to using available supplies?
- Is it possible to move the population if water sources are inadequate?
- Is it possible to tanker water if water sources are inadequate?
- What are the key hygiene issues related to water supply?
- Do people have the means to use water hygienically?

3 Excreta disposal

- What is the current defecation practice? If it is open defecation, is there a designated area? Is the area secure?
- What are current beliefs and practices, including gender-specific practices, concerning excreta disposal?
- Are there any existing facilities? If so, are they used, are they sufficient and are they operating successfully? Can they be extended or adapted?
- Is the current defecation practice a threat to water supplies (surface or ground water) or living areas?
- Do people wash their hands after defecation and before food preparation and eating? Are soap or other cleansing materials available?
- Are people familiar with the construction and use of toilets?
- What local materials are available for constructing toilets?
- Are people prepared to use pit latrines, defecation fields, trenches etc.?
- Is there sufficient space for defecation fields, pit latrines, toilets etc.?
- What is the slope of the terrain?
- What is the level of the groundwater table?
- Are soil conditions suitable for on-site excreta disposal?
- Do current excreta disposal arrangements encourage vectors?
- Are there materials or water available for anal cleansing? How do people normally dispose of these materials?
- How do women manage issues related to menstruation? Are there appropriate materials or facilities available for this?

4 Vector-borne disease

- What are the vector-borne disease risks and how serious are these risks?
- What traditional beliefs and practices relate to vectors and vector-borne disease? Are any of these either useful or harmful?
- If vector-borne disease risks are high, do people at risk have access to individual protection?
- Is it possible to make changes to the local environment (by drainage, scrub clearance, excreta disposal, refuse disposal etc.) to discourage vector breeding?
- Is it necessary to control vectors by chemical means? What programmes, regulations and resources exist for vector control and the use of chemicals?
- What information and safety precautions need to be provided to households?

5 Solid waste disposal

- Is solid waste a problem?
- How do people dispose of their waste? What type and quantity of solid waste is produced?
- Can solid waste be disposed of on-site, or does it need to be collected and disposed of off-site?
- What is the normal practice of solid waste disposal for the affected population?
(compost/refuse pits? collection system? bins?)
- Are there medical facilities and activities producing waste? How is this being disposed of?
Who is responsible?

6 Drainage

- Is there a drainage problem (e.g. flooding of dwellings or toilets, vector breeding sites, polluted water contaminating living areas or water supplies)?
- Is the soil prone to water logging?
- Do people have the means to protect their dwellings and toilets from local flooding?