

Essential WASH assessment questions for refugee settings.

Adapted from ;

✓ UNHCR-Wash Manual-Tools and Guidance for Refugee Settings - 2014.

✓ UNHCR- Wash Manual-Practical Guidance for Refugee Settings - 2018.

1. General questions.

- 1.1. How many displaced women, men, children and families are present ?
- 1.2. Is the number of refugees increasing, staying the same, or decreasing ?

2. Water availability.

- 2.1. From where are water supplies currently being collected? (Note also the origin i.e. groundwater, surface water, rainwater).
- 2.2. How far are these water sources ?
- 2.3. Who owns these water sources ?
- 2.4. What alternative water sources exist nearby ?
- 2.5. What is the average number of refugees per water collection point ?
- 2.6. How much water is being collected per household per day ?
- 2.7. How much water storage capacity does each household have ?
- 2.8. Are the water supplies protected from contamination ?
- 2.9. Is there sufficient yield / quantity ?
- 2.10. Are supplies reliable / available all day / year ?
- 2.11. What is the quality of these water sources ?
- 2.12. Are they chlorinated ?
- 2.13. What resources do families have for treating water ?

3. Excreta management.

- 3.1. What is the current defecation practice ?
- 3.2. Is there a designated area ?

- 3.3. Is the current defecation practice a threat to water supplies or living areas ?
- 3.4. Are there existing toilet facilities ?
- 3.5. If so, are they used , are they sufficient and are they operating successfully ?
- 3.6. Are they segregated by sex ?
- 3.7. Can they be improved ?
- 3.8. Would the population be willing to share or are communal toilets preferred ?
- 3.9. What local materials are available for constructing toilets ?
- 3.10. Is there sufficient space toilets ?
- 3.11. What is the slope of the terrain ?
- 3.12. What is the level of the groundwater table ?
- 3.13. Are soil conditions suitable for on-site excreta disposal ?
- 3.14. What do people use for anal cleansing ?
- 3.15. Are there sufficient materials available ?
- 3.16. Is there water available for anal cleansing, flushing or hand-washing ?
- 3.17. How did people manage excreta before the emergency ?
- 3.18. Do men / women /children / feel safe using facilities ?
- 3.19. Do the toilet doors lock adequately ?

4. Solid waste management.

- 4.1. How is solid waste currently managed ?
- 4.2. What sorts of wastes are being created ?
- 4.3. Are there designated collection points ?
- 4.4. How frequently is waste collected ?
- 4.5. Where is waste taken and how it is disposed ?
- 4.6. Are there any festering wastes or uncontrolled dumping of wastes ?
- 4.7. Are waste practices a threat to water supplies or living areas ?
- 4.8. How are hazardous wastes managed ?
- 4.9. Where are these wastes situated ?
- 4.10. Are any organisations responsible for waste collection and disposal ?

- 4.12. What resources (excavators, trucks, staff) do they have ?
- 4.13. Are there existing landfill sites ?
- 4.14. Who owns the sites ?
- 4.15. Are they operating successfully ?
- 4.16. Is there sufficient space for a landfill ?
- 4.17. What is the slope of the terrain ?
- 4.18. What is the level of the groundwater table ?
- 4.19. Are geological conditions suitable for landfill ?

5. Hygiene.

- 5.1. Is soap available for hand washing and laundering ?
- 5.2. How and where are children's faeces disposed ?
- 5.3. What is the condition of water storage containers ?
- 5.4. Is water stored safely ?
- 5.5. Is food stored and prepared safely ?
- 5.6. Are there areas / facilities for bathing, clothes laundering and airing ?
- 5.7. Are they segregated ?
- 5.8. Do current facilities offer sufficient levels of privacy and security ?
- 5.9. Do women have a place to soak / wash / dry / dispose of MHM materials with dignity ?
- 5.10. Would people be willing to share bathing facilities ?

6. Vector control.

- 6.1. Are there problems with flies, lice, fleas, ticks, rodents, bats, birds, or mosquitoes ?
- 6.2. Is household waste covered daily with at least 20 cm soil cover ?
- 6.3. Are there problems of stagnant water or blocked ditches ?

Note : The list of questions is not exhaustive and is merely intended as an “aide memoire”. Additional questions should be formulated based on the replies received and the context.