

# MEASURING THE LIKELIHOOD OF WASH SUSTAINABILITY

## The Sustainability Monitoring Framework & Index

Sustainability Monitoring Framework/ Sustainability Index (SMF/SI) is a unique tool that can help the WASH sector in various ways towards sustainable WASH. If you want to know if the rural water service is going to last, this tool gives you



the answer through a score between 0 and 1, the Sustainability Index (SI). The result points to issues that you need to work on further to increase



that likelihood of sustainability. If the tool is again used after a year or so, the progress towards sustainability is measured.

The tool is also developed for rural sanitation latrines, and for hygiene and sanitation practices. Equally, the SMF/SI tool can be used for other sector areas. The SMF/SI can also be used to appraise the project design and find which factors required for sustainability are not being addressed adequately in the project design as yet.

### For whom the SMF/SI has been designed

Sustainability Monitoring Framework/ Sustainability Index (SMF/SI) is a unique tool that can help the WASH sector in various ways towards sustainable WASH. If you want to know if the rural water service is going to last, this tool gives you the answer through a score between 0 and 1, the Sustainability Index (SI). The result points to issues that you need to work on further to increase that likelihood of sustainability. If the tool is again used after a year or so, the progress towards sustainability is measured. The tool is also developed for rural sanitation latrines, and for hygiene and sanitation practices. Equally, the SMF/SI tool can be used for other sector areas.

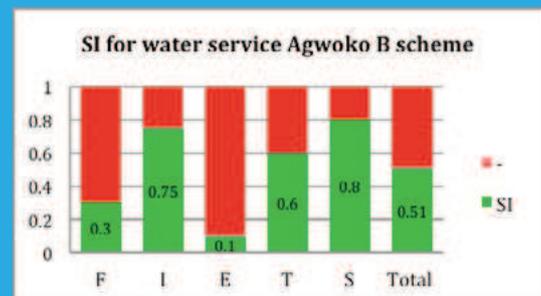
The SMF/SI can also be used to appraise the project design and find which factors required for sustainability are not being addressed adequately in the project design as yet.



The five FIETS sustainability dimensions (DWA): Financial, Institutional, Environmental, Technical and Social

### What the SMF/SI tool does

The SMF/SI tool measures the extent the FIETS requirements – Financial, Institutional, Environmental, Technological, Social - for a sustainable water service, sanitation facility or hygiene practice are being met. For each requirement a number of questions has been formulated that will be asked at various levels, for instance, water user, water provider and water authority level. At the user group level, a sample of user households is to be interviewed to obtain a representative response. The answers can only give a yes or no, or no data; or the question is not applicable for the technology applied or the context of the service, facility or behaviour. From the answers given a score is calculated between 0 and 1, the Sustainability Index. An example of a final aggregated SI result per FIETS sustainability dimensions is shown in the figure above.



## The WASH content areas the SMF/SI covers at present

The present SMF/SI focuses on the following three thematic WASH areas represent key WASH content areas in the Dutch WASH Alliance programme:

- 1 Rural water service delivery
- 2 Rural household sanitation facilities
- 3 Hygiene and sanitation practices of rural families and its members

However, the principle of the tool can be equally applied on town and peri-urban water services, any other sanitation systems, solid waste management and water resources management structures. For these content areas subject-specific questionnaires need then to be developed along the same structure as the present three questionnaires.

## What the SMF/SI actually measures

Following the FIETS sustainable dimensions the SMF/SI measures the presence or absence of the FIETS related requirements at basically three levels which vary by WASH content area, as given in the diagram shown below.

Levels	Rural Water Service Delivery	Rural sanitation facilities	Hygiene and sanitation practices
Level 1	Water users/ consumers	Households or families	Households or families
Level 2	Water Management Entity / Water Service Provider	Village with sanitation service providers	Village or community stakeholders
Level 3	Water Governing Entity / Water Authority or Board	District and national with sanitation stakeholders	Sub-district and district stakeholders

The three primary stakeholders in a water service delivery who all contribute to a sustainable water service that lasts!



Users / consumers



Water operator / local masons



Governors, local government

### Outputs – the Sustainability Index

The SMF will embrace as much as possible the complexity of sustainability taking into account the wide range of activities. The Sustainability Index (SI) is a relative score, not an absolute measure of sustainability, allowing measuring changes over the time.

## Tool format and language

Presently, three sets of questionnaires in English language are available to measure the SI. A Guide helps the user to apply the tool. The data management system will soon become available as an online tool. Mobile android phones equipped with a data collection app could do data collection. As a rough estimate, about a 5 to 7-day time input by a trained NGO staff is required for applying the SMF/SI for a single water service area, or a combined sanitation facilities/hygiene practices for up to five rural villages.

For more information, Guide and Questionnaires: <http://www.washalliance.nl/learn-more/downloads/>  
Or contact [bosto@ircwash.org](mailto:bosto@ircwash.org) or [smet@ircwash.org](mailto:smet@ircwash.org)

	SI scores Hygiene/Sanitation Practices 2013				
Villages	F	I	E	T	S
Agwoko	0.40	0.38	0.10	0.60	0.68
Lagot	0.32	0.40	0.00	0.43	0.40
Yepa B	0.51	0.55	0.25	0.82	0.62
Loi Agolo	0.25	0.20	0.28	0.35	0.38