

Toolkit for Urban Sanitation Projects

Introduction to the Project Feasibility Assessment Tool

- **Assessing Demand for Public Sanitation Services**
 - **A Tool to Assess the Feasibility of a Public Sanitation Facility**
 - **How to Use the Feasibility Assessment Tool?**
 - **The Public Sanitation Facility Performance Assessment Sheet**
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1. Assessing Demand for Public Sanitation

If a Water Service Provider (WSP) intends to construct one or more public sanitation facilities (PSFs) within its service area, there is need to assess the demand for public sanitation services. Do people really need access to improved sanitation and do they need a public sanitation facility?

The decision to construct a public sanitation facility at a given location, e.g. at a market, a bus park or in a high density low income area (e.g. an informal settlement), should, therefore, be based on sound information (data) with regard to the expected demand for that facility. The WSP should also collect data on the suitability of the potential location. For example, can the required land be acquired and is the site visible and accessible?

2. A Tool to Assess the Feasibility of a Public Sanitation Facility

In order to assess the feasibility of a public sanitation project and facility the WSTF has developed the Project Feasibility Assessment checklist (see the next file in this Toolkit).

This tool assists the WSP is assessing the feasibility of a public sanitation facility project by focussing upon the following issues:

- Suitability of the location and site.
- Land (acquisition).
- Accessibility of the site.
- Existence of alternative private and public sanitation options (facilities).
- Assessment of demand for public sanitation.
- Project implementation (potential constraints).
- Technical considerations.
- Maintenance and repair of the PSF (potential constraints).
- General operation of the PSF.
- Management of the PSF (facility ownership, tariffs, regulation, operation)

3. How to use the Feasibility Assessment Tool?

The Project Feasibility Assessment tool is divided into a number of sections:

Section:	Title:
A	Location and Site
B	Land Issue.
C	Accessibility.
D	Alternative Sanitation Options.
E	Assessment of Demand.
F	Project Implementation.
G	Technical Considerations.
H	Inspections & Maintenance and Repair on the PSF.
I	Operation of the PSF.
J	Management of the PSF.

Some sections are divided into subsections. Each section and subsection consists of a number of questions. The WSP should try to answer the various questions. Often a question can be answered simply by ticking (“X”).

Each question has a conclusion. For example, (see Section A: Location and Site) a location and site can be “Not suitable”, “Acceptable”, or “Suitable”.

On the basis of the answers and conclusions, one is able to arrive at a conclusion for the section. The recorded section conclusions are automatically transferred to the first page (tab) named “Project Identification & Conclusion”.

An analysis of the sections conclusions will enable the WSP to assess the feasibility and sustainability of the public sanitation project (“Overall Assessment”).

4. The Public Sanitation Facility Performance Assessment Sheet

The overall sustainability of the PSF depends on such factors as:

- The number of customers.
- The tariffs charged.
- The net revenue of the Operator.
- The net revenue of the WSP.

The last page (tab) of the Project Feasibility Assessment tool enables the WSP to see the impact of changing the values of the following variables:

- The charge customers of the PSF have to pay.
- The quantity of water used per toilet flush or shower.
- The number of customers per day.
- The tariff the Operator has to pay the WSP.

The sheet will calculate:

- The quantities of water consumer per month.
- The monthly turnover
- The amount the Facility Operator has to pay the WSP per month.

The quantities and amounts obtained provide an insight into the overall performance of a PSF.
