

BRCS MSM: Sanitation and hygiene rapid assessment checklist

Purpose

This checklist is intended to help carry out a rapid field assessment following the deployment of the MSM, to identify the following:

- acute risks and needs associated with sanitation and hygiene, for prioritising initial actions;
- important physical, health, and social resources and conditions that need to be taken into account when designing an initial response;
- early baseline data for establishing a monitoring system;
- areas where more detailed assessment is required for designing a longer-term response.

The checklist is generic. It should be adapted for specific contexts.

Data sources / assessment methods

The following data sources / assessment methods are suggested for finding answers to the assessment questions (in the second column of the checklist table).

- A. Existing reports, maps and other secondary data
- B. Observation, transect walks
- C. Interviews with community members and representatives
- D. Interviews with local authorities, ministries, local and international NGOs, UN agencies, RC/RC staff and volunteers
- E. Health-care facility reports and interviews
- F. Visual inspection, sampling and testing
- G. Focus-group discussions, mapping, three-pile sorting and other participatory techniques
- H. Rapid counts and small sample surveys
- I. Distribution records and post-distribution monitoring surveys

Recording data

It is suggested that data are recorded in a report that follows the same order as the headings in the assessment checklist, in the form of short notes, with a final section outlining conclusions and recommended actions.

Assessment question	Data source / assessment method
Overall Public Health Situation	
1 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?	A,C, D,H,I
2 What are the security factors for the people affected and for potential relief responses?	A,C,D
3 What special security risks exist for women and girls?	A,C,D,G
4 What are the current or threatened water and sanitation-related diseases (provide key mortality and morbidity data if possible)? What are the extent and expected evolution of problems?	A,C,D,E,G,H
5 Do people have adequate food to eat? Are there high rates of malnutrition?	A,C,D,E,I
6 Are there adequate health-care facilities and do people use them?	C,D,E
7 Do people have adequate shelter and non-food items?	A,B,C,D,H,I
General Sanitation and Hygiene	
1 What other agencies are working in sanitation and where? What resources are they able to share?	A,C,D
2 Who are the key people to consult, contact and work with?	C,D
3 Who are the vulnerable people in the population and why?	A,C,D,G,I
4 Is there equal access for all to existing facilities?	A,B,C,D,G,H
5 What water and sanitation practices were the population accustomed to before the emergency?	A,C,D,G,H
6 What non-food items would enable better hygiene and maintenance of dignity?	C,D,G
7 How do mothers or caretakers manage diarrhoea in children under five? Are people familiar with ORT?	C,D,E,G

Assessment question	Data source / assessment method
1 Are there any major problems with the site of the emergency settlement – topography, location, soil type, slope, surface area, accessibility, environmental conditions)? If so, are alternative sites available, or can mitigating works be carried out?	A,B,D,E,F,G
2 Does the layout of the emergency settlement enable a healthy environment to be created and maintained (space allowed for sanitation corridors, graveyards, drainage systems etc.)?	A,B,D,E,F,G
Excreta disposal	
1 What is the current defecation practice? If it is open defecation, is there a designated area? Is the area secure?	B,C,F,G,H
2 What are current beliefs and practices, including gender-specific practices, concerning excreta disposal? What strong cultural preferences are there?	A,B,C,D,F,G
3 Are there any existing facilities? If so, are they used (and if not, why not)? Are they sufficient (estimate number of people per toilet)? Are they operating successfully (cleanliness)? Can they be extended or adapted?	B,C,D,F,G
4 Are toilets sufficiently close to shelters? Is access to toilets safe? Is lighting provided for use at night?	B,C,G,H
5 Is the current defecation practice a threat to water supplies (surface or ground water) or living areas?	B,D,F
6 How do parents/caretakers manage children's and babies' excreta?	B,C,D,G
7 Do people wash their hands after defecation and before food preparation and eating? Are soap or other cleansing materials available? Are there handwashing points close to toilets? Are they in use? Is the water supply reliable?	B,C,D,F,G
8 Are people familiar with the construction and use of toilets?	A,B,C,D
9 What local materials are available for constructing toilets?	A,B,C,D
10 Are people prepared to use pit latrines, defecation fields, trenches, etc.?	B,C,G

Assessment question	Data source / assessment method
1 Is there sufficient space for defecation fields, pit latrines, toilets, etc.?	A,B,C,D,G
2 Are there specific excreta-disposal needs of people who are elderly or disabled?	B,C,D,G
3 Are soil conditions suitable for on-site excreta disposal? What is the slope of the terrain? What is the level of the groundwater table?	A,B,C,D,F
4 Do current excreta-disposal arrangements encourage vectors?	B,C,D,F
5 What are the current and preferred methods of anal cleansing? Are there sufficient suitable materials or water available? How do people normally dispose of these materials?	C,D,G
6 How do women manage issues related to menstruation? Are there appropriate materials or facilities available for this?	C,D,G
7 Is there a significant quantity of livestock excreta in and around the settlement? Does this create a significant environmental health risk?	B,C,D
Vector-borne disease	
1 What are the vector-borne disease risks and how serious are these risks?	A,C,D,E
2 What traditional beliefs and practices relate to vectors and vector-borne disease?	C,D,G
3 If vector-borne disease risks are high, do people at risk (particularly pregnant women and children under five) have access to individual protection?	C,D,I
4 Is it possible to make changes to the local environment (by drainage, scrub clearance, excreta disposal, refuse disposal, etc.) to discourage vector breeding?	B,C,D,F
5 Is it necessary to control vectors by chemical means? What programmes, regulations and resources exist for vector control and the use of chemicals?	A,D,F
6 Is there a national vector control programme that needs to be taken into account?	A,D

Assessment question	Data source / assessment method
1 What information and safety precautions need to be provided to households?	A,C,D,G
Solid waste disposal	
1 Is solid waste a problem? Is a large quantity of uncontrolled solid waste apparent in the settlement?	B,C
2 How do people dispose of their waste? What type and quantity of solid waste is produced, and where?	B,C,D
3 Can solid waste be disposed of on-site, or does it need to be collected and disposed of off-site?	B,C,F
4 What is the normal practice of solid waste disposal for the affected population?	C
5 Are there medical facilities and activities producing waste? How is this being disposed of? Who is responsible? Is additional support required?	A,B,D,E
Drainage	
1 Is there a drainage problem (e.g. flooding of dwellings or toilets, vector breeding sites, polluted water contaminating living areas or water supplies)?	B,C,F
2 Is the soil prone to water logging?	F
3 Do people have the means to protect their dwellings and toilets from local flooding?	B,C
Dead bodies	
1 Is there a significant health risk associated with the disposal of human remains (large numbers of bodies not disposed of, presence of communicable disease such as cholera)?	B,C,D
2 Who is responsible for dealing with human dead bodies? How effectively is the problem being managed?	A,C,D
3 What are the normal practices in the population for funerals and final disposal of the deceased? Are these practices possible with minimum health risk?	C,F
4 Are there many dead animals in and around the settlement? Do they create a significant health risk?	B,C,G

