



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Monitoring System

Briefing Note



WHY monitor?

Displaced persons are at a high risk of contracting infectious diseases related to inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene, unsafe water, or other environmental health risks. Estimates suggest that children are up to 20 times more likely to die from diarrheal disease related to unsafe WASH than violence during a conflict. Regular monitoring is required to ensure the technical integrity of WASH interventions and therefore the realization of the outcomes linked to health and protection. In addition, the rights to water and sanitation is part of the universal rights essential for human survival and dignity. State and non-state actors have responsibilities to fulfil these rights, and to be able to effectively ensure these rights are achieved requires regular, routine, and rigorous monitoring.

WHEN to monitor?

Routine monitoring of the UNHCR core WASH indicators needs to be started immediately during the emergency phase and should be continued even after a durable solutions have been implemented, with the goal to integrate monitoring as quickly as possible into the regular monitoring carried out by government to measure against development objectives. This is regardless of whether the context is emergency, post-emergency, camp-based, non-camp based, urban, or rural. UNHCR programmes should also monitor the rate of change of core WASH indicators to clearly show that the UNHCR target values will be met on-time. If the scale-up rates show that UNHCR target will not be met on-time, additional financial, material, and human resources should be allocated

WHAT is monitored?

UNHCR standards are aligned to the development standards set by the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the emergency standards outline SPHERE.

Overarching Standard	
Universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water (6.1), and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, ending all practices of open defecation (6.2).	
Sector	Standard
Water supply	People have equitable and affordable access to a sufficient quantity of safe water to meet their drinking and domestic needs.
Hygiene	People are aware of key public health risks related to water, sanitation and hygiene, and can adopt individual, household and community measures to reduce them
Menstrual Hygiene	Women and girls of menstruating age, and males and females with incontinence, have access to hygiene products and WASH facilities that support their dignity and well-being
Sanitation	All excreta is safely contained to avoid contamination of the natural, living, learning, working and communal environments.
Solid Waste	People can safely collect and dispose or treat solid waste in their households.

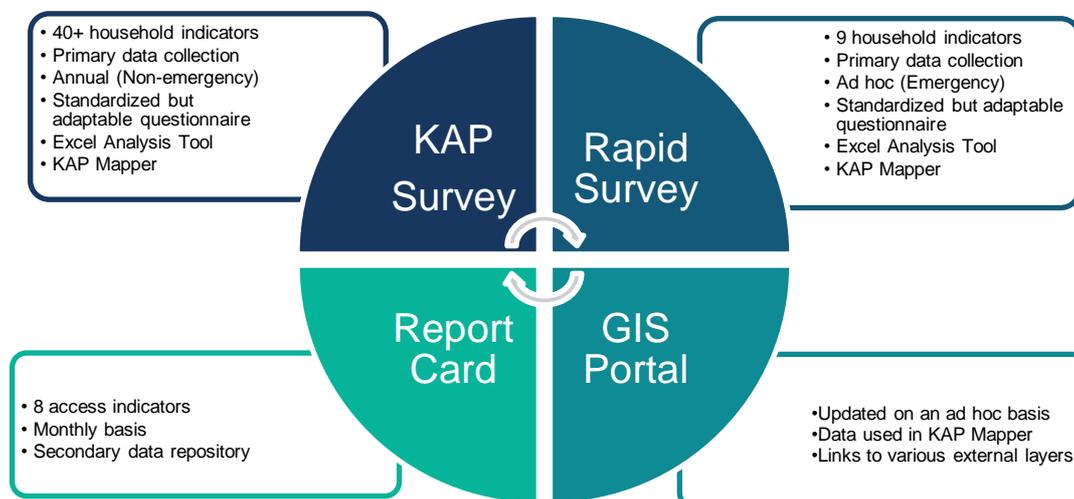
To measure the conditions against these standards, UNHCR has 17 key indicators which are systematically tracked through the WASH Monitoring System. These indicators include a mix

of 9 progress indicators which allow for measurement of progress towards the standard (e.g. % of households), as well as 8 target indicators which have specific quantifiable targets that represent the minimum below which the standard is not being met (e.g. number of liters per person per day). Furthermore these 17 key indicators are divided into household and community level indicators. These are shown in the table below.

		Household		"Access" (i.e. Community Level)
		KAP Survey		WASH Monthly Report Card
Water	HH01	% of HH collecting water from protected or treated sources	A1	Number of persons per usable handpump / well / spring
	HH02	% of HH with at least 10 lppd potable water storage capacity	A2	Number of persons per usable water tap
	HH03	Average litres of water collected per person per day	A3	Average # litres of safe water available per person per day
	HH04	Maximum distance [m] from household to potable water collection point	A4	% water quality tests at non chlorinated water collection locations with 0 CFU / 100mL
			A5	% of water quality tests at chlorinated collection locations with FRC in the range of 0.2-2.0 mg/L and turbidity < 5 NTU.
Sanitation	HH05	% of HH reporting defecating in a toilet	A6	Number of persons per latrine/toilet
	HH06	% of HH with household latrine/toilet (not shared)		
	HH07	% of HH with access to a designated solid waste disposal facility		
Hygiene	HH08	% of HH with soap for handwashing	A7	Number of persons per bath shelter / shower
	HH09	% of women of reproductive age who are satisfied with menstrual hygiene management materials and facilities	A8	Number of persons per hygiene promoter

Components of the WASH Monitoring System

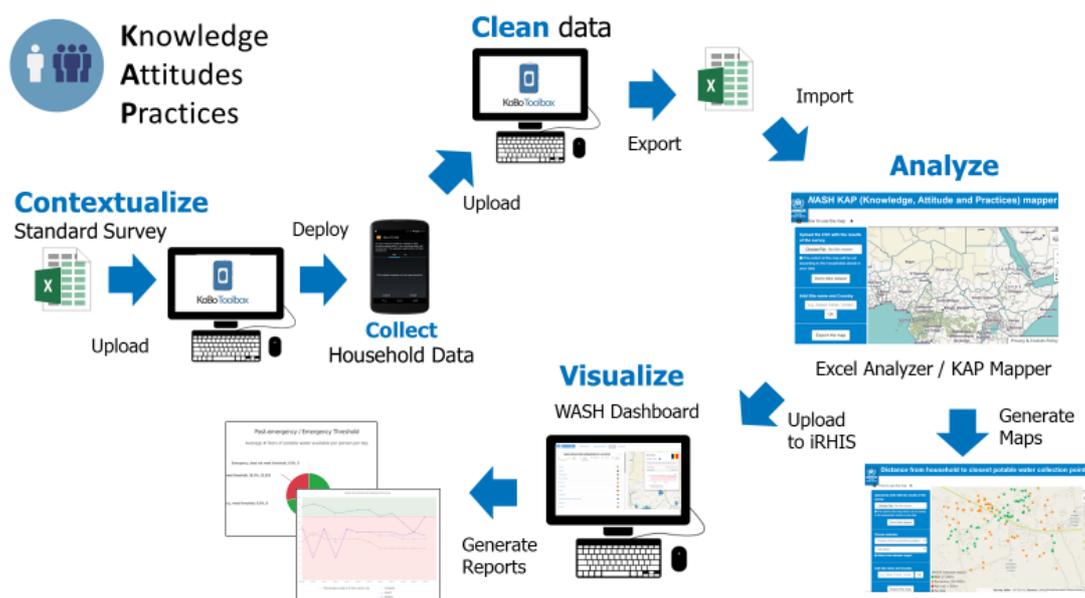
The WASH Monitoring System consists of four main components: the Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Household survey, the Rapid Household Survey, the WASH Monthly Report Card, and the GIS Portal. These main components are described in the figure below.



I. Monthly Report Card is a monthly update of 8 access indicators derived from partner reporting. This secondary data is manually entered in the online data repository included in the integrated Refugee Health Information System (iRHIS). From the entered data, the indicators are calculated and can be visualized on the WASH Dashboard.



II. Annual Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey is a household survey which collects information on water collection and storage, sanitation infrastructure, hygiene knowledge and behaviors, solid waste management practices and more. Data collection should be done on an annual basis in all sites using mobile phones. A standardized but locally adaptable survey form is available, along with an excel based analysis tool and online geographic visualization tool. These tools foster significant time savings in planning, carrying out the survey, conducting the analysis and presenting the results. Upon finalization of the analysis, information on the 9 household indicators is entered into the WASH KAP form in iRHIS.

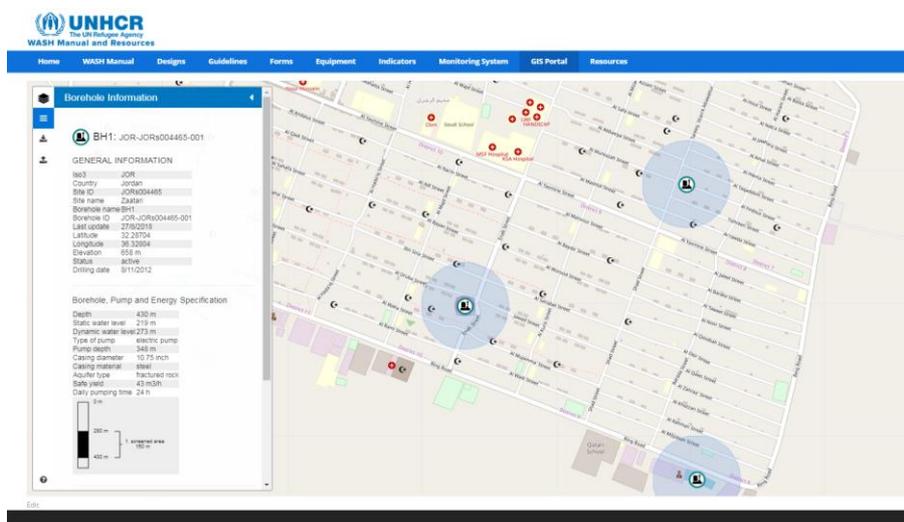


III. The Rapid Household Survey uses the same survey and analysis tools as the KAP, but is designed with a sub-set of the 9 key household indicators. This survey is designed for deployment during emergencies and utilizes a unique sampling technique called random location cluster sampling.



Both the KAP and the Rapid Survey are household surveys which can be collected using mobile data collection or paper-based forms (Photo: © UNHCR/Roger Arnold)

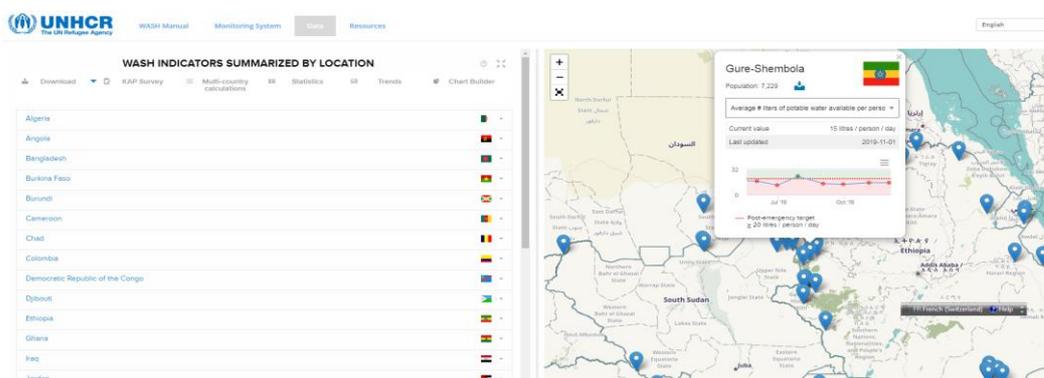
IV. GIS Portal is a database of the boreholes located within refugee camps and settlements. The database contains information on the infrastructure, hydrogeology, lithology, and water quality parameters. This information is linked to the KAP mapper which analyses data from the household survey. It also has the potential to be used for asset management and groundwater and water quality monitoring purposes.



Complementary WASH Data

There are additional data streams which include WASH data. These include:

- **Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS):** SENS includes a WASH module with which 8 out of the 9 key WASH household indicators can be collected.
- **Health Access Utilization Survey (HAUS):** HAUS is a telephone survey that includes 10 WASH questions that are adapted to the remote monitoring context, yet closely aligned with the UNHCR WASH monitoring system and the WHO/Unicef Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) – the official monitoring mechanism for WASH in the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Post Distribution Monitoring:** as part of cash-based interventions UNHCR monitors access to key basic services such as WASH. The standardized PDM survey includes the 9 core WASH questions.
- **Multisector needs assessments:** Where UNHCR is organizing multisector needs assessments, survey managers are encouraged to use the core questions of the standardized but adaptable WASH KAP survey questionnaire.
- **Live WASH data:** As of 2020, UNHCR has installed over 100 remote monitoring devices for water supply infrastructure based on internet-of-things (IoT) technology. The data measured by these devices is gradually made available at wash.unhcr.org.



WASH Dashboard

The WASH Dashboard can generate a number of products to provide information on the 17 indicators and therefore track progress against UNHCR targets and standards. Outputs can be generated by site, country or region. The dashboard can:



Display trends to track progress on key indicators



Build custom reports by site, operation or region



Identify high/low performing sites



Calculate key statistics



Identify programming gaps



Compare geographic areas

For more information visit:

wash.unhcr.org



Source: © UNHCR/Yorgos Kyvernitis

PUBLISHED BY:

UNHCR

Please send your comments, questions and suggestions for future revisions to hqwash@unhcr.org

wash.unhcr.org

Photo credits: © UNHCR/Anita Corluca (cover);