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D3.2 **Transect Walk**

Community representatives and members of the planning team walk through relevant neighbourhoods, discussing and recording the water supply and sanitation infrastructure and related environmental sanitation issues.

PURPOSE

A transect walk helps to gain an overview of the water supply and sanitation situation and first-hand impressions of the main problems in the area. It also delivers insight into the perspective of the local residents concerning associated needs and challenges. In addition, a transect walk can be an opportunity to verify information obtained from a community mapping exercise.

A “walk of shame” or “walk of disgust” is a variation of the transect walk, which aims at sensitising residents to problems associated with open defecation practices, creating embarrassment and triggering mobilisation of the community (see Kar & Chambers (2008) for details).

PROCEDURE

A representative group of community members and facilitators from the planning team (ideally including an environmental or civil engineer) walk around the community area. If gender relations do not allow involving women and men together, the transect walk should be carried out in separate groups.

Through interactions with residents and participants of the transect walk, the following issues should be discussed:

- Water availability and use for sanitation (flushing, anal cleansing, personal hygiene)
- Wastewater disposal and reuse
- Access to toilets for different socio-economic groups
- Use, functionality and adequacy of existing services (including private and public facilities, drainage and sewerage systems, wastewater treatment)
- Financial and institutional arrangements for operation and maintenance
- Environmental “hot spots”, such as sources of pollution, dump sites, flooded areas, etc.

PROCESSING AND USE OF INFORMATION

Information derived from a transect walk should be recorded for further use. It can also be incorporated in the detailed status assessment report (step 3).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- WSP & GoI (2008): A guide to decision making: Technology Options for Urban Sanitation in India
- Kar, K. & Chambers R. (2008): Handbook on Community-Led Total Sanitation