

T3

Participatory Assessment Methods

Summary: This tool contains information on how to conduct participatory mapping exercises and transect walks for the interactive analysis of the urban environment in the target area. Both methods involve community members in the information gathering process.

Participatory Mapping: Assisted by a facilitator, community members develop a map of the target area and visualise features related to environmental sanitation infrastructure (deficiencies) and services.

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

Application Within the Planning Process:

Step 1: Process Ignition and Demand Creation

Step 2: Launch of the Planning Process

Step 3: Detailed Assessment of the Current Situation

Related Tools:

T1 Ignition and Demand Creation

T2 Interview Methods and Questionnaire Examples

T8 Problem Tree Analysis

Purpose Participatory mapping (often referred to as community or social mapping) helps to get an overview of the community area, to visualise relevant existing infrastructure and to understand the access of different socio-economic groups to water supply and environmental sanitation services. If the focus of the mapping is on pointing out the spatial incidence of poverty it can be called participatory poverty mapping, and if the focus is on locating deficiencies with regard to the existing situation it can be called problem mapping. Maps produced in an interactive process with the community reveal important information about local conditions and the community's perceptions. They can be used for planning, evaluation and monitoring.

A transect walk can also help to gain an overview of the environmental sanitation situation in the area and deliver 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 participatory mapping exercise. A “walk of shame” or “walk of disgust” is a variation of the transect walk that is commonly applied in the CLTS approach (see Tool T1). It aims to sensitise residents to problems associated with open defecation practices, creating embarrassment and triggering mobilisation of the community.

How to use this tool? The two methods included in this tool are explained in separate manuals (**Documents D3.1** and **D3.2**). These documents contain detailed information and recommendations on how to carry out participatory mapping and transect walks, respectively. Further participatory techniques for the collection of information in a community include pocket voting, focus group discussion and individual interviews. They can be found in **Tool T2**. For a situational analysis you could also use the problem tree analysis tool **T8**.

Resources

Document D3.1:
Participatory Mapping
[D3.1.pdf](#)



Document D3.2:
Transect Walk
[D3.2.pdf](#)