

Tool 1 – Summary – Hotspot Identification

Inappropriate SWM practices, such as waste dumping and burning, might pose a public health and environmental risk. By combining hazard, exposure, and vulnerability, the hotspot identification and evaluation tool helps define where the major risks occur. Coupled with indications of who is responsible for unsafe practices, it also helps to understand why this inadequate practice occurs, thereby setting the ground to define urgent and long-term actions.

Description

The hotspot identification and evaluation tool involves identifying hazards and assessing the associated risks at each identified hotspot. It relies on basic observations related to practices of waste dumping and waste burning. Mapping these hotspots helps prioritise whether urgent or longer-term actions are needed. Urgent actions should target hazards that create critical risks, while longer-term actions should focus on planning and implementing systemic changes. Typical potential hotspots to observe include waste management facilities (such as transfer stations, recovery facilities, and disposal sites), waste collection points, banks/shores of water bodies, drains and ditches, and empty land plots. When performing a hotspot identification and evaluation assessment, it is essential to map areas with and without waste collection services, as well as areas prone to flooding and give attention to drain clogging potential.

Steps for hotspot identification:

1. Plan and prepare the hotspot identification (1-2 days*)

- Identify key informants
- Define the hotspot identification method to be used
- Define mapping means to be used
- List the vulnerable areas (for people and infrastructure)
- Map areas with and without collection service
- Map areas where floods have occurred in the past

2. Data collection (1-3 days*)

- Conduct interviews with key informants
- Visit and observe locations where waste dumping and burning occur, taking special consideration to drain clogging and risks of flooding
- Mark the hotspot location on the map using a specific colour code reflecting its risk level
- Record information for each hotspot on form **Tool 1.1 – Hotspot Identification**.
Table T 1.1 A provides an overview of key elements to consider when preparing your hotspot identification activity and guides on how to proceed.
Meanwhile, **Table 1.1 B** and **Table 1.1 C** are forms that should be completed for waste dumping and accumulation, and waste burning, respectively. One evaluation table should be completed for each identified hotspot.

3. Analyse and process the data (1-2 days*)

- Consolidate your map using a colour coding based on the risk assessment results
- Discuss the resulting map with local stakeholders and adapt if needed
- Define if short-term immediate actions are required, as defined in Step 1.2
- Determine the cause at each hotspot and define long-term actions, as outlined in Step 1.3.

** Time requirements are a rough indication and will highly depend on the resources available for the assessment and the size of the area of interest.*



Resources

Hotspot identification form: **Tool 1.1 – Hotspot Identification**