

GENDER ANALYSIS SNAPSHOT (GAS)

CARE developed the Gender Analysis Snapshot to explore the links between gender equity and WASH sustainability and project/programme effectiveness in Northern Ghana. The GAS tool is composed of 22 indicators in four areas: water resources, household decision making, access to public spaces and services, and woman empowerment. Each indicator takes the form of a question with a likely style response. Scoring for each indicator is from one to five and more points are awarded to responses that reflect greater participation by women or more equity in each of the four areas. The indicator questions are answered collectively by a focus group, and two focus groups meetings are done in each community – a male focus group and a female focus group. Focus group members as well as community facilitators were selected to maximise representation of all groups, with consideration, for example, of inclusion of female-headed households, households with disabled female children, diversity of age, etc. As with qualitative data collection methods, in general the level of effort required is greater. However the amount of data is great, which can lead to more nuanced conclusions.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: Project staff.

Objective: To understand the level of gender equity in sample communities.

Areas: Water sanitation and hygiene, household decision making, access to public spaces and services, and woman empowerment.

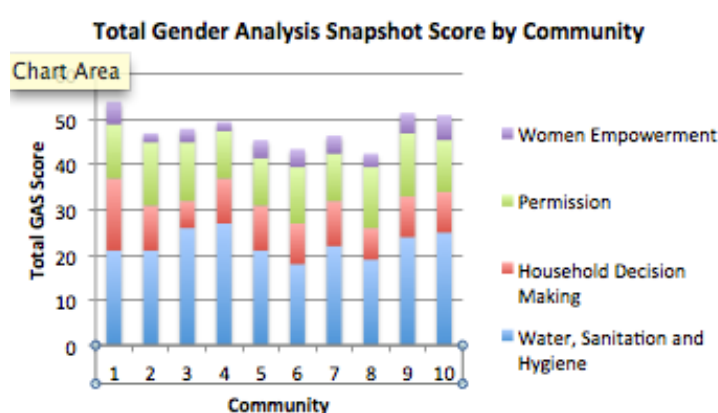
Indicators: 24 indicator questions.

Methodology: Focus groups were conducted in each community. Two focus groups (one male, one female) were used due to the sensitive nature of the topics. Participants were asked to score each of 24 questions. Individual scores were averaged to come up with a final score for each indicator for the community. All the indicator scores were aggregated for an overall score (range of 21-90) with higher scores indicating higher levels of gender equity in the community. Comparison of scores between the focus groups can be utilised to highlight the perceptions of each gender.

Outputs: Indicator and composite scores and bar chart showing scores by community and area.

Tool format and language: Downloadable Word document; English.

Resource Link: This tool along with other resources are available: <http://water.care2share.wikispaces.net/TOOLS>



IMPACT AND FINDINGS

GAS has been applied in ten communities in three districts of Northern Ghana and in Burkina Faso by a different organisation. In both cases the GAS was embedded in a larger study and applied in coordination with other assessment methodologies. Both provided a more in-depth assessment and links to recommendations on how to adjust future WASH projects in ways that deliberately target different categories of women to spread and strengthen overall project benefits.

Strengths	Limitations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions are straightforward Participatory processes ensure that the perspective of the community is represented Process can be embedded in both planning and monitoring activities Can provide insight into women and men's understanding of gender empowerment and equity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires specialist trained in participatory processes and facilitation skills Assumptions behind scoring arrangements in the sample framework are not clear If utilised alone, the GAS may be overly simplistic