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Annex
Part A

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies | **Global Water and Sanitation Initiative** | A ten year initiative 2005–2015
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PHAST checklist and guidance notes
Evaluating Red Cross Red Crescent PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) programmes

Background

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) advocates for the integration of "hardware" and "software" for water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. This approach has been adopted by the International Federation under the Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI), establishing a set of criteria related to beneficiaries identification, technical options, scale of projects, impact measurement, gender mainstreaming, government and other stakeholder's integration and environment, that should be met by all the Red Cross Red Crescent water and sanitation players.

IFRC promotes PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) methodology as the backbone of software activities since, throughout the seven steps, the two core software elements, (hygiene behaviour change and community management), are widely addressed.

In recent years all long-term developmental IFRC projects have been designed following the GWSI technical criteria including a strong component of Water and Sanitation software based on the implementation of PHAST methodology. PHAST is used as a very dynamic and flexible methodology that can include more or less emphasis on community management and/or behavioural change depending on the scenario.

The special focus of PHAST is helping the communities to improve their hygiene behaviours, prevent diarrhoeal diseases and encourage the community to own their facilities by selecting themselves the most appropriate technology option and agreeing on its management system. Through the seven steps, the community realizes the relation between sanitary conditions in the community and health status, empowering the community to plan for actions and to own the infrastructures.

The last PHAST mapping conducted in March 2009 shows that 38 National Societies worldwide are implementing PHAST components integrated within their larger water, sanitation and hygiene promotion long-term programmes. The understanding on what is PHAST and how to implement it within the Red Cross Red Crescent environment varies notably from one country to another. International Federation in its effort to standardize the PHAST approach and share best practices across the members of the Red Cross Red Crescent movement, published in 2007, The International Federation software tools for long-term water and sanitation programming.

How to use the checklist and guidance notes

In recent years, many evaluation studies have been conducted in the Water and Sanitation sector within the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement aiming at:

1. measuring the impact of Red Cross Red Crescent PHAST programmes in the target communities,
2. following up on the level of adherence by National Society to the traditional standard PHAST seven steps cycle,
3. bringing together experiences on how to better adapt PHAST to the Red Cross Red Crescent context and
4. collecting best practices and lessons learnt by observing the different PHAST adaptation processes at country level.

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The purpose of this set of checklist plus guidance notes is to help Red Cross Red Crescent personnel involved in PHAST programmes to evaluate their PHAST components by providing a simple and quick self-evaluation checklist and background technical information in the form of brief guidance. The questions in the checklist have been identified following recommendations and lessons learnt drawn from recent evaluation and mid term reviews.

Each question can be linked to a specific section in the guidance so more comprehensive information is available to ensure each question is well understood, the answer is given easily and the way forward is can be clearly identified. This checklist will help Red Cross Red Crescent Water and Sanitation technicians (software or hardware oriented) to identify those core elements that a PHAST programme should cover to meet the minimum standards.

The checklist can be used along the different steps of the project cycle (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation). In the planning phase, the checklist might be used to verify whether core PHAST elements are properly and fully incorporated into the proposal (narrative, logical frame and budget). For those implementing Water and Sanitation projects, the checklist might be useful for organizing sound work plans and ensuring that a monitoring system is effectively put in place. This tool should facilitate the collection and review of information that reveals how the PHAST programme is proceeding and what aspects of it, if any, need correction. The checklist also might be informative for those who plan to conduct a self-evaluation (or mid-term review) without the assistance of an external consultant. The result of this evaluation might be fed back into the remaining period of implementation.

The checklist and guidance notes have been friendly organized in different sectors to facilitate the self – evaluation allowing users to access separately to five main topics:

1. Enabling factors for good PHAST programming: this section includes those organizational factors that contribute to the success of PHAST programmes.
2. PHAST in action: this section contains topics related to PHAST training and deployment in the communities
3. Link between PHAST, hardware component and community management system.
4. PHAST impact: this section includes topics related to PHAST Monitoring and Evaluation.