

Tool sheet

The Tool Sheet gives an overview of available tools for improved water integrity

Diagnostic

Annotated Water Integrity Scan (AWIS)

A quick analysis of water integrity levels through a multi-stakeholder approach

OVERVIEW

The Annotated Water Integrity Scan (AWIS) is a tool that has been designed to quickly assess the integrity situation in the water sector through a one day multi-stakeholder workshop. AWIS was developed by the Water Integrity Network (WIN) together with the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre. The scan analyses water integrity risks that may facilitate corruption and hinder good governance. The tool looks at the three pillars of integrity: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP). AWIS assesses TAP for five risk areas through scores that are complemented with annotations. The annotations are qualitative information to explain the scores based on the dialogue amongst workshop participants with knowledge about the water sector and anti-corruption legislation. This scan is also important as it facilitates the exchange of information and perceptions through dialogue. This creates a basis for prioritisation of water integrity action.

BOX 1 Information at a glance:

Target group - A multi-stakeholder group of experts led by a sector organisation.

Implementation frequency - The scan can be repeated on a (bi-)annual basis.

Implementation level - At a national level but can be adapted to regional and even local level.

More information - The AWIS manual, the facilitators guide and WIN's report on the 2011 AWIS in Kenya provide more information on the implementation of AWIS in practice

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the AWIS are to:

- » **Give an overview of the state of water integrity** and map potential integrity risks in five main risk areas of a specific water sub-sector.
- » **Increase awareness about water integrity (TAP)** to stimulate action resulting from constructive and solution oriented dialogue among different stakeholders.
- » **Identify priority areas for action** by reflecting on the outcome of the AWIS and the experiences of different stakeholder groups to increase integrity and strengthen the water governance framework.
- » **Document change over time** by repeating the AWIS

SCOPE

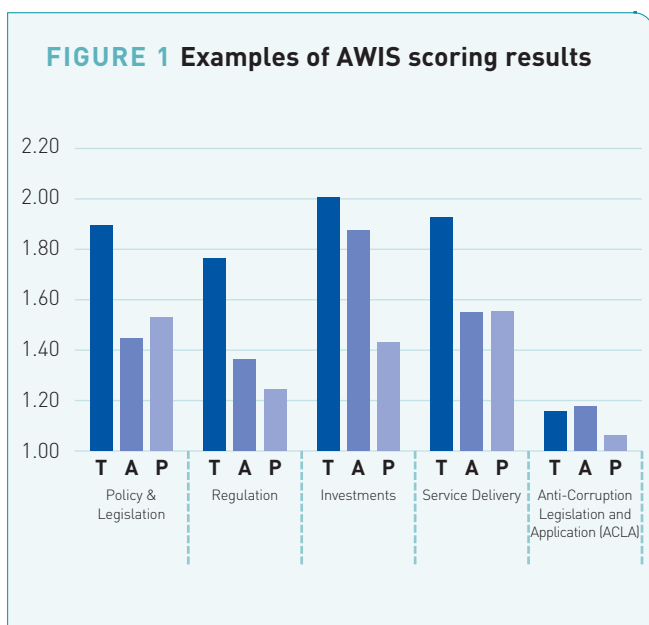
AWIS is a qualitative instrument used as a quick scan to assess the status of water integrity. It is a tool that needs to be embedded in existing stakeholder initiatives as it requires follow-up action to address the limitations and integrity risks that are being identified. This implies that the workshop results need to be shared and discussed with a larger group of stakeholders that have a mandate to improve the situation taking forward the priority actions necessary to mitigate the limitations that have been identified by the AWIS and increase water integrity.

IN PRACTICE

The AWIS is developed in a workshop by a group of eight to 12 experts familiar with the specific water sub-sector and progress with anti-corruption measures. Participants assign scores for TAP in five critical risk areas:

- » Policy and legislation
- » Regulation
- » Investment projects and programmes
- » Service provision
- » Anti-corruption framework

The average scores provide the starting point to develop qualitative annotations. This generates a picture of the status of integrity in the sub-sector of focus. Clear definitions of TAP are used to facilitate the scoring and annotation process.



“The AWIS is a qualitative instrument used as a quick scan of water integrity risks.”

The tool is implemented as follows:

- 1 Participants anonymously assign scores from 1-3 (1=low, 2=medium and 3=high level) to T, A and P for each risk area. Results are given to the facilitator and computed to obtain the average score of all participants for each of the TAP levels.
- 2 The results from the scoring are shared with the participants. Experience has shown that scores vary among participants and therefore the group is asked to provide annotations for the level above and below the score. The group provides detailed comments for each score. These annotations explain why a higher or lower score could be considered and thereby justify the average score. If for example an average risk score is 2.4 the group is asked to give arguments why the score could be closer to 3. Then the participants provide arguments why the score could be closer to 2. Participants thus do not have to defend their own score, but can freely deliberate about the risk situation.
- 3 The scores and the annotations provide the basis to identify areas for priority action. The participants may already identify some actions to be taken as an input for the wider stakeholder discussion of the results of the AWIS.
- 4 As a follow-up to the workshop, the AWIS report which presents the results of the scoring, the annotations and some suggestions for action, is shared with a larger group of stakeholders. Sharing the report enhances the awareness of the situation and initiates further action.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Repeating the AWIS on an annual basis in combination with a review of progress with the agreed action is a feasible way to document change in water integrity and strengthen the dialogue needed to sustain this change process and therewith reducing the risk of corruption in the sector. The AWIS approach can help to shape national water policies through the engagement with key stakeholders from the water sector involved in policy making. The information generated through the workshop can also support evidence-based advocacy efforts at national and global levels.