

Dear Participant,

I am a PhD student at Makerere University, collaborating with EAWAG-SANDEC on the WABES project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Since 2022, research teams have been studying water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management in Kakooge and Wobulenzi Town Councils. This survey follows up on previous data, aiming to gather information on the presence, impact, and effectiveness of tools/approaches/frameworks used in these sectors in Uganda and small towns for advocacy, diagnostics, planning, and implementation. This interview will take approximately 45-60 minutes. With your permission, I would like to audio-record our conversation to ensure I accurately capture your insights. The recording will be used for transcription purposes only, will be stored securely, and will be destroyed after the study is completed. Your participation is voluntary, and you may choose to skip any question or withdraw at any time. All your responses will be anonymized and treated with strict confidentiality.

Please provide the following respondent information:

Organization/Institution:

Position/Title:

Country:

Your responses will remain confidential and used only for academic purposes.

Thank you for your contribution to this important research.

Section A: Background and contextual information

1. Could you please describe your current role and your main responsibilities concerning water, sanitation, and/or solid waste management?
2. In your experience, what are the two most pressing challenges to providing sustainable Water supply, sanitation, and Solid waste services in Ugandan small towns?
3. How would you describe the current state of *integration* between water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management planning and implementation in the small towns?

Section B: Awareness and application of technical planning tools

4. What technical tools, frameworks, or methodologies are you familiar with or have you used for planning and implementing either water supply, sanitation/SWM services? Tick appropriately in the table below!

Tool category	Water Supply	Sanitation	Solid Waste Management	Others
Guidelines for Town Sanitation Planning				
Community-Led Urban Environmental Sanitation (CLUES)				
City Sanitation Plan (CSP)				
Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM)				
Water Resources Assessment (WRA)				
Water Flow Diagram				
Shit Flow Diagram (SFD)				
Rapid assessment tool				
Sanitation Safety Planning				
City Service Delivery Assessment (CSDA)				
Urban Sanitation Status Index (USSI)				
City MSW Rapid Assessment Data Collection Tool				
Waste Flow Diagram				
Waste Wise Cities				

Tool (WaCT)				
WASHCost				
Equiserve				
Life-Cycle Costing (LCC) for WASH				
CLARA Planning tool				
Sanitation Decision Support Tool (Akvopedia)				
SaniChoice				
IWSSM				

5. Could you walk me through a specific instance where you or your institution applied one of these tools?

6. What was the outcome of using this tool? Were the plans generated implemented?

Section C: Factors influencing tool effectiveness

C1. Technical and institutional capacity

7. In your view, does your institution have the adequate in-house technical expertise to apply these planning tools independently, without external support?

8. How do issues like high staff turnover or overwhelming workloads impact the sustained use of these tools?

C2. Financial constraints

9. What are the typical costs associated with applying these tools? Are these costs a significant barrier?

10. Does the source of funding (e.g., specific donor project vs. government budget) influence which tools get used and how they are applied?

C3. Governance and political will

11. How does the governance structure influence the selection and application of planning tools?

12. How important is sustained political or administrative leadership for the successful application and follow-through of tool-based plans? Can you give an example?

C4. Tool design and accessibility

13. Many tools are described as 'complex' and 'data-hungry'. Has this been your experience?
14. If you could redesign these tools for the Ugandan small-town context, what three features would you prioritize?

C5. Community engagement

15. How are community members and users typically engaged in the planning processes that use these technical tools?

Section D: Integration across sectors

16. From your perspective, to what extent do the available tools help planners address the interconnections between water, sanitation, and solid waste?
17. What are the biggest institutional or funding-related disincentives that prevent truly integrated planning across these three sectors?

Section E: Recommendations and way forward

18. Based on your experience, what is the single most important change needed to improve planning for Water supply, sanitation, and solid waste services in small towns?
19. What should tool developers do differently to make their products more usable and sustainable in this context?
20. What should the Government of Uganda or development partners do to better support local governments in using these tools effectively?

Closing remarks

That concludes our formal questions. Thank you so much for your valuable time and for sharing your insights.