

Safe Water Enterprise – Site selection criteria and guidelines

The Safe Water Kiosks use a filtration technology that can treat most sources of raw water and make it safe for drinking. The aim of the project is to provide appropriate safe water for communities and thus prevent waterborne diseases like diarrhea and cholera. They should also operate as a viable and tangible self funding micro business enterprise within the local community.

The Safe Water Kiosk should be typically operated by an entrepreneur selected by the community (local organization). They will “sell” the safe water in clean containers at a small and fair price. The kiosk manager can thus earn a reliable salary and ensure financial sustainability of the enterprise. In order to identify whether a site is suitable for this specific water filtration technology and the Safe Water Kiosk, the local organization needs to fill out the “Preliminary Assessment Checklist”.

Site Selection Criteria

Water Source

- 1) A water source must be available
 - The water source can be from a creek, river, dam, well or other suitable supply
- 2) The water source is close to the community and to the envisaged kiosk site
 - The kiosk must be close enough to the water source (within 400 meters) to allow water to be pumped or delivered to the water kiosk by other means, e.g. gravity feed system
- 3) The water source is reliable
 - The water from the sources flows every day and all year. There are no major interruptions or breakdowns
 - The water from the source is sufficient to supply 400-500 families (note: the filtration unit can supply 10,000 liters per day)
- 4) There is no other water vendor in close proximity to the potential kiosk site OR – if there is a water vendor already, agreements can be made to avoid competition (e.g. the existing vendor sells raw water for cattle, or his/her services are integrated in the new kiosk concept)
- 5) There is no other safe water source that people use for drinking close to the potential site

Water Quality

- 6) Water from the source needs treatment to make it safe for drinking
 - Water is generally considered as contaminated with bacteria and or pathogens
 - The water does not contain any chemicals (These cannot be removed by the filter)
- 7) There are cases of waterborne diseases in the community
 - This validates the real need for a solution. Is there any data available?

Community

- 8) Population Size: There are at least 200 - 500 households (within a distance of 1-2 km) who would buy water from the safe water kiosk
- 9) Acceptance: The population accepts a safe water kiosk run by an “local operator” from the community who will be trained in water kiosk enterprise skills

- 10) Need for safe water and willingness to pay: The community is interested in buying safe water for a small fee. (note: To make the safe water kiosk sustainable, there must be a small income to cover the cost of a kiosk operator as well as running costs)
- 11) Local Support:
 - The local community genuinely supports a water kiosk in their area.
 - There are no political issues or conflicts of interest from individuals or local players.
 - The local community is willing to actively assist/ help to build the water kiosk.
 - The community clearly understands that this SWE is not just a “gift” but a partnership arrangement, with low contribution requirements

Operations of safe water kiosk

- 12) A kiosk manager with a “business minded” attitude is selected by the community and available to run the kiosk on a daily basis with an entrepreneurial attitude. (note: tasks will include daily cleaning of the water filtration unit, daily maintenance of the water kiosk, keeping kiosk in a clean condition, assisting customers with supply of clean drinking water, promoting the operation of the water kiosk to the community)
- 13) Sales: Minimum sales of about 70 re-fills per day are required in order for the kiosk to be self-sustainable. This depends on the price, on maintenance and the agreed salary for the kiosk manager. We recommend basing the salary on the sales performance.
- 14) Land issues: The owner of the land on which the water kiosk will be built is willing to lease or offer sign that area for the use of the water project
- 15) The Local Water Service Provider AND the government agrees with the project.
- 16) The community will seek and obtain the local business permit (as required) and also obtain the Department of Health/ Water Utility approval to operate the kiosk.