

News from the MUS group #15



July 2009

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This newsletter provides information on the provision of multiple use water services. It focuses on how these may be made to work for poverty reduction by supporting people to get access to water for both domestic and productive activities. The productive focus is on small-scale activities like backyard gardening, livestock keeping and micro-enterprises. These all play a crucial role in people's livelihoods but are often neglected in water programmes. The newsletter is produced by the MUS (multiple use water services) Group. More information about the Group, and how to join, can be found at www.musgroup.net

1) Introduction: strengthening the MUS Group

Over time, we have seen the volume of activities in the fields of MUS growing. More of our members are involved in projects and activities, such as research, policy advocacy and implementation on MUS. Also our core group is growing, now that IFAD had formally joined (see item 3). That is of course good news for the Group. However, that also calls for a strengthened functioning of the MUS Group, as platform for sharing information from these various initiatives. We therefore welcome support in strengthening the MUS Group activities, such as now offered by FAO and WSSCC (see item 2). These will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting of the Group, to be held on 24-25 August, hosted by FAO in Rome (see item 6). Also, the next phase of the Challenge Program on Water and Food would be expected to contribute to the strengthening of the Group (see item 10). At the same time, we are happy to see some outcomes of the first phase of the CPWF reflected in a recent publication (see item 4) and other programmes, such as the recognition of the importance of MUS in Ethiopia's Universal Access Plan (see item 8).

Stef Smits and John Butterworth, IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre (smits@irc.nl, butterworth@irc.nl)

2) Sharing news: support to the MUS Group from WSSCC and FAO

Since December 2008, the MUS Group receives some financial support from the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), as the Group is recognised formally as one of its thematic groups. These funds have been used to support Southern partners to attend for example the World Water Forum in Istanbul. In addition, a policy brief has been developed from the MUS Symposium last year (see item 7), and to set up a technical exchange facility. The MUS Group can apply for another round of funding. Also, FAO has made available some funding for secretariat activities of the Group. Details of the proposal will be discussed at the next meeting.

For more information about these support facilities, contact John Butterworth (butterworth@irc.nl)

3) Sharing new: welcoming IFAD as new core group member

The MUS Group is happy to welcome IFAD (the International Fund for Agricultural Development) as a new core partner. After having already put in a great effort in the MUS Symposium and the sessions on multiple-use services at the World Water Forum in Istanbul, IFAD requested to become a core member of the Group. This request was gladly accepted. We would invite any other organisation wishing to become a core member to have a look at the procedure for that <http://www.musgroup.net/page/275>

For more information about IFAD, see <http://www.musgroup.net/page/1115>. The contact person in IFAD for the MUS Group is Audrey Nepveu a.nepveu@ifad.org

4) Sharing news: technical exchange visits to support MUS Project implementation

The MUS group are now piloting a programme of volunteer technical support to support MUS project implementation. An outcome of the international symposium in Addis Ababa was a proposal to find ways to assist projects that require some support in implementing a MUS approach. With funding from the Water Supply and Sanitation collaborative council, two initial visits will support requests by RAIN in southern Ethiopia for assistance in building MUS into a rainwater harvesting project, and WINROCK in Niger. They have requested the inventor of the Canzee pump to provide support on how the pump could be manufactured locally, and in conjunction with existing traditional wells, provide for multiple use water services. The programme and procedures for further volunteer technical assistance visits between group members will be developed based on feedback from these pilot visits. The costs supported are limited to travel and expenses, with the identified experts volunteering their time

For more information about these exchange visits, contact John Butterworth (butterworth@irc.nl)

5) Publications: climbing the water ladder; multiple-use water services for poverty reduction

The Multiple Use Systems (MUS) Project, was an action-research project, funded by the Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF). Findings from this project have been reported in various past editions of this newsletter. Now, a book, entitled "Climbing the Water Ladder, Multiple-use water services for poverty reduction", is available, which synthesises all the findings from the project. The authors, Barbara van Koppen, Stef Smits, Patrick Moriarty, Frits Penning de Vries, Monique Mikhail and Eline Boelee, discuss, on the basis of findings from 8 countries, how multiple-use services can be provided at community, and what is needed in terms of an enabling environment to facilitate mus. In addition to the book, also, the full website of the project, which includes all outputs that have been developed, is now available on the MUS Group website.

The book can be downloaded via www.irc.nl/publications www.iwmi.org and www.waterandfood.org/publications/program-publications/jointpublications.html

The MUS Project website is now available at www.musgroup.net/musproject

6) Next meeting: 24-25 August at FAO offices in Rome

The next meeting of the MUS Group will be hosted by the FAO at their offices in Rome on 24-25 August. As usual, the meeting is split in two parts. The first day is dedicated to content issues. This time, we plan to look at programmatic approaches to multiple-use services. A particular aspect that receives attention are performance indicators. In addition, various presentations will look into the opportunities and challenges of developing multiple-use services under a programmatic approach. The second day of the meeting is dedicated to the business and activities of the Group. Amongst others, the strengthening of the secretariat activities will be discussed.

For further details about the agenda and the registration process, check <http://www.musgroup.net/page/1112>

7) Sharing news: designing water systems for mus in Honduras

Last year, RASHON (the water and sanitation network of Honduras) and IRC undertook a study into the use of rural water supply systems for multiple-use. This study confirmed that most systems are in fact used for multiple purposes. This is partially facilitated by the relatively large amounts of water available in these gravity-fed systems. However, it also showed the need for support to water committees in developing management arrangements to provide this water in an equitable manner. As a follow-up to the study, an interest was raised to develop approaches that can better accommodate this reality in the planning and design of rural water supply systems. In response to this, the Worldbank-funded PIR (Rural Infrastructure Programme) will test multiple-use services provision in a programmatic approach. To that effect, issues of mus will be addressed in the project cycle of this programme. In the current assessment phase, attention is paid to actual water use and livelihoods in the villages where PIR will intervene. Assessment tools developed during last year's study will be used for that. Then in a number of these villages, multiple-use systems will be planned and designed for, and implemented. Also, monitoring of impact will take place. By following the project cycle, it is expected that lessons learnt can be included in the tools and guidelines that exist in the country for rural water supply. To that effect, a learning alliance is organised around this pilot.

The paper with study results is available at <http://www.musgroup.net/page/796>. for more info on the pilots, please contact Tupac Mejía (tmejia@fhis.hn)

8) Sharing news: MUS recommended in the new accelerated Universal Access Plan in Ethiopia

In 2005, the Ethiopian government has developed a universal access plan (UAP) to achieve 100% national water supply and sanitation coverage by the year 2012. However, assessments done in the third year of the implementation showed that the pace of progress is very slow to attain the UAP target on time. The major challenges for the sector were filling the huge financing gap required to reach the UAP and low sustainability of

services. Consequently, the government revised the UAP in 2009 adopting the approach of multiple uses of rural household's water supply for livelihood, among other strategies, to accelerate progress.

In view of the above, a recommendation has been made to adopt MUS as one way of accelerating the UAP. This is expected to help tackle poverty at household level and solve the problems of sustainability and cost recovery by increasing households' ability and willingness to pay for water supply services. The economic benefits from MUS are expected to act as motivating and enabling factors for households to contribute to investment and maintenance of schemes reducing the reliance on external financial sources. The system will also be linked to micro-credit schemes, where households will access credit services to build their own water supply. The implementation would start first by upgrading small scale irrigation schemes developed in rural areas, to domestic supply by improving the quality and quantity of supply. And the next step will be construction of new systems for both productive and domestic uses. These recommendations are now being discussed in the final draft of the revised UAP.

For more information, contact Bethel Terefe (b.terefe@rippleethiopia.org). The paper with these recommendations made by Dr. Alemayehu Mekonen was presented at the 34th WEDC Conference in Addis Ababa, 2009 and will soon be available at <http://www.wedcconference.co.uk/>

9) Publications: Policy brief from Multiple-Use Symposium available

In August, a policy brief based upon discussions at the November 2008 Symposium in Addis Ababa and prepared by the Overseas Development Institute and the RiPPLE programme will be published

If you would like to receive some printed copies please contact Jojoh Faal (j.faal@odi.org.uk) by 31 August 2009.

10) Sharing news: MUS at the 34th WEDC International Conference

This conference entitled Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Sustainable Development and Multisectoral Approaches was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 18 to 22 May 2009. It was attended by 645 participants from 65 countries. Papers were presented on a wide range of topics under environmental sanitation, water supply, water resources, institutional issues and knowledge management.

Two papers with a strong MUS focus were presented in one of the Water Supply sessions:

- Incorporating productive use into water systems in urban Nigeria, by Joachim Ibeziako Ezeji and Ian Smout
- Multiple uses of rural household water supplies for livelihoods in Ethiopia, by Alemayehu Mekonen

These complemented each other well, showing that MUS approaches are relevant in both the urban and rural contexts, and that there are important differences between types of productive use at household level

Other papers of interest to the MUS Group include presentations in the sessions on Wastewater Use and Integrated Water Resource Management.

The proceedings of the Conference are currently being finalised and papers will be available for download from <http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/index.php>

11) MUS in second phase of the Challenge Program on Water and Food

The Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) is a multi-institutional research initiative whose goal it is to increase the productivity of water used for food and livelihoods, in a manner that is environmentally sustainable, socially acceptable, and alleviates poverty of disadvantaged groups. In its first phase, the CPWF supported research on multiple-use, for example, through the MUS Project and the Livestock Water Productivity Project. Given that, in addition, several river basins have identified multiple-use of water as a priority challenge of the second CPWF phase, MUS has become a key cross-cutting Topic of the program. To that effect, a Topic Working Group is being established, and coordinated by Barbara van Koppen. Further details on how the research on this topic will be structured will follow shortly. In addition, the CPWF Management Team seeks closer collaboration with the MUS Group. Through the MUS Project, the contributions of MUS Group members to the MUS Topic Paper, the global symposium in November in Addis Ababa, and the joint collaboration for the MUS Topic Session at WWF5, it has become evident that there is strong overlap of the ultimate aims of the MUS Group and the 2nd phase of the CPWF. Hence, the CPWF seeks a high degree of synergy between the Topic Working Group on MUS and the MUS Group.

For more information about MUS in the second phase of the CPWF, please contact Barbara van Koppen (b.vankoppen@cgiar.org).

12) Sharing news: session on small-scale water storage at Stockholm

RAIN is co-convening a seminar, together with Acacia Water and ICRAF/SEARNET, titled: "Water and Food Security in Water Scarce Areas: The Untapped Potential for Upscaling Small-scale Water Storage Solutions" at the Stockholm Water Week. The seminar will bring together critical and diverse perspectives towards upscaling the use and management of rain-, soil- and ground-water for livelihood security and climate change adaptation. Emphasis

