

# News from the MUS group #13



December 2008

## Contents

- 1) **Introduction:** feed-back from Addis Ababa
- 2) **MUS Symposium:** main conclusions
- 3) **MUS Symposium:** all papers now online
- 4) **MUS Group:** minutes from the last business meeting
- 5) **MUS Group:** your coordinator
- 6) **MUS pictures:** some impressions from Addis Ababa
- 7) **Sharing news:** sessions on multiple-use at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Istanbul, Turkey
- 8) **Sharing news:** linkages with the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Challenge Programme on Water and Food

*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](http://www.musgroup.net)*

### 1) Introduction: feed-back from Addis Ababa

From 4-6 November, the MUS Group held an international symposium on "multiple-use services: from practice to policy" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This was held 5 years after a similar event in Johannesburg and was opportunity to share progress in advocating, researching and implementing multiple use services. In this issue of the newsletter, we focus the main outcomes of that symposium. In Addis Ababa, various side events were also held. These included a meeting of the MUS Group, sessions to prepare for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, and meetings on the linkages between the Group and the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Challenge Programme on Water and Food (CPWF). Based on these discussions we hope to highlight some of the upcoming activities and opportunities for next year. We hope that this issue of the newsletter provides a good update for those of you who weren't able to join us in Addis, and a nice reminder for those of you who were.

*Stef Smits and John Butterworth, IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre ([smits@irc.nl](mailto:smits@irc.nl), [butterworth@irc.nl](mailto:butterworth@irc.nl))*

### 2) MUS Symposium: main conclusions

The MUS Symposium brought together 68 participants from 16 countries, including large delegations from Ethiopia and Nepal. The participants discussed for three days on the question of how to move "from practice to policy" with mus. There were a combination of over 20 papers presented and discussion sessions. The first day of the symposium focused on understanding and conceptualizing multiple-use services. Heated discussions arose on whether mus should be considered as a service delivery approach, or rather as a type of system. Although most agreed on the former, this point is likely to remain a point of discussion. The idea of viewing mus as a paradigm shift also generated a lot of interest. The second day then dived into the practicalities of providing multiple-use services. We looked into its impact, and costs and benefits, as well as into practical aspects such as technologies. This was complemented by a demonstration of appropriate technologies outside the hall. On the final day of the symposium, the focus was on replication, scaling-up and the way forward. Amongst others, activity plans were developed for further initiatives on mus in Ethiopia and Nepal. Draft policy recommendations were also formulated and these will be taken forward in a policy brief to be presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. In reflection upon the three days, the main conclusion is that a lot of progress has been made in conceptualizing mus, and obtaining field evidence that this really provides a promising alternative approach to water services delivery, particularly in rural areas. There are strong models for providing these services. These provide sufficient basis for moving forward in scaling-up mus. In this next phase of scaling-up, more attention will be needed to detailing how to provide multiple-use services, in terms of programmatic components and indicators for impact and performance.

*A full conclusions report is available at [www.musgroup.net/page/814](http://www.musgroup.net/page/814)*

### 3) MUS Symposium: all papers now online

The papers which were presented at the symposium are available now online. The papers can be downloaded as full proceedings, or as separate papers.

*The papers are available at [www.musgroup.net/page/778](http://www.musgroup.net/page/778)*

#### 4) MUS Group: minutes from the last business meeting

At the symposium a side business meeting of the MUS Group was held. This meeting addressed three main issues: an introduction to the Group and its functioning for new members, planning of activities for next year, and discussing governance of the Group. One of the main points of discussion is the need to strengthen the networking function of the group, particularly the peer-exchange on projects and programmes between members. Several ideas were proposed. In addition it was announced that the Group has obtained a renewed recognition by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) as one of its thematic working groups. This means that there will now be some funds available to support actions of the Group.

Full minutes are available from [www.musgroup.net/page/812](http://www.musgroup.net/page/812)

#### 5) MUS Group: your coordinator

In lines with the governance guidelines for the group, we asked for nominations for election the role of MUS Group coordinator (the role currently filled by John Butterworth). Unfortunately there were no nominations, and we will revisit the nomination and election process at the next MUS Group meeting.

For more information on MUS group governance arrangements please see [www.musgroup.net/page/738](http://www.musgroup.net/page/738) or contact John Butterworth ([butterworth@irc.nl](mailto:butterworth@irc.nl))

#### 6) MUS pictures: some impressions from Addis Ababa





From top, left to right:

1. Opening session of the MUS group symposium 2008 in Addis Ababa
2. Working groups going into detail
3. Introducing the session on impacts of multiple-use services
4. Group picture of participants in the MUS group symposium 2008
5. Henk Holtslag demonstrating the principles behind rope and washer pumps

*Photo credits: Martine Jeths and Stef Smits*

## **7) Sharing news: sessions on multiple use at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Istanbul, Turkey**

The MUS Group are contributing to the organisation of two sessions at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum to be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 16 to 22 March 2008 (exact date and time still to be confirmed). The two sessions are titled: 1) Multiple uses and functions of water services to accelerate achievement of MDGs: characteristics, values and stakeholders and 2) Governance and institutional support for enabling multiple uses and functions of water services. Together these provide for over eight hours of high-level discussions on the theme. The detailed programme is currently being developed by a working group led by FAO and involving IRC, IFAD and other organisations.

*For more information on participating in the MUS sessions please contact Daniel Renault ([daniel.renault@fao.org](mailto:daniel.renault@fao.org)) and more general information on the Forum visit <http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/>*

## **8) Sharing news: linkages with the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Challenge Programme on Water and Food**

The Challenge Programme on Water and Food (CPWF) has been one of the supporters of multiple-use services particularly by funding the MUS (Multiple-Use Project). The CPWF is now entering a second phase and one of the main focus themes will now be multiple-use services. A topic synthesis report has been prepared. During the MUS Symposium, staff from the CPWF attended and discussed potential future linkages between the MUS Group and the CPWF. Some of the MUS Group members also attended the International Forum on Water and Food also held in Addis Ababa the week after the MUS symposium, and was a forum to bring together the results of the first phase of the CPWF and look forwards. A specific meeting was also held to discuss potential linkages between the work of the MUS group and the programme. It was concluded that the second phase offers ample opportunity for further collaboration. There will be open calls for proposals for research on topics related to multiple-use of water in basins prioritised by the CPWF which will be of relevance to MUS Group members. In addition, there will be topic working groups that aim to synthesise findings across basins and with relevance to the learning interests of the MUS Group. So, watch out future developments with the CPWF.

*For the topic synthesis report see [www.ifwf2.org/?q=resources](http://www.ifwf2.org/?q=resources) and more information about the CPWF see [www.waterandfood.org](http://www.waterandfood.org) and [www.ifwf2.org](http://www.ifwf2.org)*

