

## Multiple Use Water Services Potential and Challenges for Rural Dwellers

**E-Discussion on Multiple use water services, 28<sup>th</sup> of April – 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2014**



The RWSN (Rural Water Supply Network) Forum in Uganda in 2011 resulted in a commitment statement on progressing towards sustainable rural water supply services. That commitment acknowledges that water is accessed for multiple uses such as drinking, cooking, washing, sanitation, watering animals, growing food and generating income. Over the past decade or so, an approach known as multiple-use services has been developed. It seeks to ensure that people have all the water they need for healthy, productive lives.

Recognising the importance of these multiple uses is one thing but what does this mean in practice? How can equitable access to water within a community be ensured? How can water for multiple uses be provided in a sustainable manner? Should household investments be promoted? These are some of the issues faced by RWSN members, who are also finding innovative solutions. The MUS (Multiple Use Services) Group is network of practitioners with experiences in these issues.

An e-discussion from the **28<sup>th</sup> April to the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014** aims to improve understanding among water practitioners of the Multiple Use Services approach and explore how this links with issues of interest: household investments in self-supply for multiple uses, equity considerations in multiple uses of water, and the relation between multiple uses of water and sustainable services. It will bring together a network of practitioners from different disciplines who will share learning from approaches that have worked and those that have not. The practical experience shared will be captured in a synthesis. This synthesis report will outline current knowledge gaps, policy implications, and highlight issues for the four RWSN thematic groups as well as other Rural Water Supply stakeholders to take forward.

We are looking for a very wide participation from the national governments, local governments, private sector, NGOs, other networks, research institutions and funding organizations including international organisations such as UNICEF, World Bank, IFAD and FAO so please let people know about this.

This discussion will take in English, French and Spanish. The questions and weekly summaries will be posted in all three languages.

The e-discussion is open to anyone who registers on <https://dgroups.org/RWSN/selfsupply/mus/join> by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014. If you have problems joining, please contact [sean.furey@skat.ch](mailto:sean.furey@skat.ch)