



## Issue 173 | Jan 9, 2015 | Focus on Multiple-Use Water Services

This issue focuses on multiple-use water services (MUS), an integrated approach to delivering water services that meet people's health and livelihood needs. Included in this issue are SolutionMUS--a new open initiative of Winrock International to scale-up Multiple-Use Water Services, a new video from the Millennium Water Alliance, a SPRING project report on linking MUS to improved nutrition, an MUS training module from the GLOWS project, and other resources.

### NEW INITIATIVES

#### **SolutionMUS.org –An Open Initiative to Scale-Up Multiple-Use Water Services.**

Winrock International. [Link](#)

SolutionMUS is an open initiative of Winrock International to scale-up Multiple-Use Water Services (MUS). SolutionMUS adds value to ongoing efforts to provide water services to people living in poverty through: a clear, consistent conceptual framework, technical standards and a step-by-step process; impact-boosting programs that enhance people's health and livelihoods, and contribute to environmental sustainability; rigorous field testing and evaluation; an active learning and sharing platform to encourage continuous improvement; and a growing package of technical support and training products. SolutionMUS.org allows implementers, funders, policymakers and researchers to understand the SolutionMUS methodology, read about real-life results, and explore resources related to MUS.

### NEW VIDEOS

#### **Ethiopia: WASH/IWRM Program Increases Agricultural Productivity and Improves Livelihoods, 2014.** Millennium Water Alliance. [Video](#)

The Millennium Water Alliance and its implementing partner in Ethiopia, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), have released two new videos on the WASH program in Ethiopia funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation. The videos—one eight minute version and one two-minute version—focus on how alliance member and Ethiopia program partner CRS, along with its local partner Water Action have been piloting an MUS approach in five Ethiopian *woredas* (districts). The funding from the two foundations has enabled the alliance and its partners to expand their focus on MUS. The MUS program at the Ancharo watershed in Kalu woreda (Amhara region) has been in place since 2010, and Ancharo residents have seen a dramatic shift in agricultural productivity. The WASH component is the focus of the MWA-Ethiopia Program, but at the same time CRS is working

on a package of interventions combining WASH with agriculture, food security, and livelihood diversification. The MWA-Ethiopia Program, involving CRS, CARE, Living Water International, WaterAid, World Vision, and local partners, has improved access to water for more than 350,000 people over three years.

**Nepal: Solar Multiple Use Water System**, 2014. Renewable World. [\(Video\)](#)

Renewable World works with local partners (IDE and SAPPROS Nepal) to build their capacities to deliver renewable energy services to remote and marginal communities.

**Multiple Use Service of Water: A South African Case Study**, 2014. E Maalouf. [Video](#)

This South African case study focuses on a project that targets the use of water for multiple needs within a community. The aim is to optimize current infrastructure and implement guidelines for maximizing productivity within the community.

## REPORTS

**Multiple-Use Water Services: Toward a Nutrition-Sensitive Approach**, 2014. USAID Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) Project. [Link](#)

With emerging evidence suggesting that stunting cannot be addressed without also focusing on WASH, SPRING wanted to better understand current WASH and water strategies that sought to bridge agriculture and health to reduce undernutrition at the community, farm, and household levels. Pulling on examples from the field, this report highlights some opportunities and challenges around linking MUS to improved nutrition and outlines some promising practices for making MUS more nutrition-sensitive.

**Scaling Up Multiple Use Water Services: Accountability in the Water Sector**, 2014. B van Koppen. [Link](#)

This report argues that by designing cost-effective multi-purpose infrastructure MUS can have a positive impact on people's health and livelihoods. It analyzes and explains the success factors of MUS, using a framework of accountability for public service delivery, and it also examines why there has been resistance to scaling up MUS.

**Guidelines for Developing a Self-Supply Acceleration Plan for Your Area**, 2014. J Butterworth. [Link](#)

Planning is needed for activities that will ensure households and others are supported to develop their own sustainable and good quality water supply. These activities include: assessing the potential for self-supply, creating interest and demand for self-supply, and testing and providing advice and training in self-supply technologies.

**Multiple Use Water Services: Potentials and Challenges for Rural and Peri-Urban Dwellers**, 2014. Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN). [Link](#)

This is a synthesis report of the e-discussion on MUS that was held from April 28–May 24, 2014. The e-discussion aimed to improve understanding among water practitioners of the MUS approach and explore how it links with issues of interest to RWSN: household investments in self-supply for multiple uses, equity considerations in multiple uses, and the relation between multiple uses of water and sustainable services.

**Planning for a Multiple Use System Approach at Local Level: Experiences from Bushbuckridge, South Africa**, 2014. T Cousins. [Link](#)

To achieve greater water security at village level, and for water to meaningfully tackle poverty, a more holistic and integrated approach to water planning is needed, which is based on an understanding of people's livelihood strategies and the role of water resources (and constraints) within those. This paper attempts to discuss such an approach, which was developed and piloted in Bushbuckridge, South Africa. SWELL (Securing Water to Enhance Local Livelihoods) is a community-based planning approach that aims to enable improved allocation and use of water resources for water-related livelihoods. The SWELL methodology is based on a participatory process that brings together villagers, water service implementers, and other agencies.

**GLOWS Training Module: Learning about Multiple Uses of Water**, 2013. T Visscher. [Link](#)

This training module forms part of the wider set of Guided Learning on Water and Sanitation (GLOWS) modules that have been developed to support problem-based and guided self-learning on water and sanitation in Ethiopia. GLOWS training materials are currently used by several technical and vocational education and training colleges and in a range of projects supported by SNV, Meta Meta, the Ethiopian Water Alliance, the RAIN Foundation, and other partners. This GLOWS module on multiple water use is a fully revised and updated version of the module included in the first GLOWS training package.

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

**The Human Right to Water: The Importance of Domestic and Productive Water Rights.** *Science and Engineering Ethics*, Dec 2014. R Hall. [Link](#)

Domestic-plus services provide water for domestic and productive uses around homesteads, which challenges the widespread practice in the public sector of planning and designing water infrastructure for a single use. Evidence is presented to show that people in rural communities are already using their water supplies planned for domestic uses to support a wide range of productive activities. Domestic-plus services recognize and plan for these multiple uses, while respecting the priority for clean and safe drinking water.

## **WEBSITES**

**Rural Water Supply Network.** [Website](#)

The Rural Water Supply Network is the global network of professionals and practitioners working to raise standards of knowledge and evidence, technical and professional competence, practice and policy in rural water supply and so fulfil the vision of sustainable rural water services for all. RWSN places a strong emphasis on innovation, documentation, research, and capacity building.

**SolutionMUS.org –An Open Initiative to Scale-Up Multiple-Use Water Services.** Winrock International. [Link](#)

SolutionMUS is an open initiative of Winrock International to scale-up Multiple-Use Water Services (MUS). The website has links to reports, videos, case studies, and many other resources.

**Multiple Use Water Services Group.** [Website](#)

The MUS Group is a network of some 14 core organizations and over 350 individuals. The group has been operating since 2003 as the platform for learning, synthesis, and joint advocacy around MUS.

-----  
WASHplus Weeklies highlight topics such as Urban WASH, Household Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Hand Washing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus Knowledge Resources Specialist, at [dacampbell@fhi360.org](mailto:dacampbell@fhi360.org).



---

**About WASHplus** - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in access, practice and health outcomes related to water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and household air pollution (HAP). WASHplus uses at-scale, targeted as well as integrated approaches to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit [www.washplus.org](http://www.washplus.org) or email: [contact@washplus.org](mailto:contact@washplus.org).