



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Issue 56 May 18, 2012 | Focus on Water Security

This week's issue focuses on water security. Water security is defined as the availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems, and production, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks to people, environments, and economies. Resources in this issue include the latest UNESCO world water development report, a report on global water security sponsored by the State Department, proceedings from an April 2012 conference on water security, links to relevant websites, and recent videos on water security.

Please let WASHplus know at any time if you have resources to share for future issues of WASHplus Weekly or if you have suggestions for future topics. An [archive](#) of past Weekly issues is available on the WASHplus website.

NEWS/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Expert Urges Unity in Dialogue on Water Security**, *AlertNet*, April 19, 2012.

[\(Link\)](#)

A speaker at the International Conference on Water Security, Risk and Society, held at the University of Oxford, highlighted the competing concerns of developed and developing nations when it comes to water security. According to the expert, this disconnect hinders efforts to launch more effective talks on providing universal access to fresh water and sanitation.

- **Water Security, Risk and Society Conference, April 2012.** [\(Presentations\)](#)

The April Oxford water conference mentioned above convened many of the world's thought leaders from science, policy, and enterprise to understand the status of and pathways to water security at multiple scales.

- **Not a Drop to Drink: The Global Water Crisis**, *The Internationalist*, May 8, 2012.

S Patrick. [\(Link\)](#)

This article summarizes the findings of the first U.S. intelligence community assessment of global water security. The document predicts that by 2030 humanity's

“annual global water requirements” will exceed “current sustainable water supplies” by 40 percent.

REPORTS

- **Global Water Security**, 2012. Defense Intelligence Agency. ([Full-text](#))

This report, requested by the State Department, is designed to answer the question: How will water problems (shortages, poor water quality, or floods) impact U.S. national security interests over the next 30 years? The report provides an introductory discussion of the global water picture and focuses on a finite number of states that are strategically important to the United States as well as trans-boundary issues from a selected set of water basins (Nile, Tigris-Euphrates, Mekong, Jordan, Indus, Brahmaputra, and Amu Darya).
- **Managing Water Under Uncertainty and Risk, World Water Development Report (WWDR4)**, 2012. UNESCO. ([Full-text](#))

The WWDR4 describes the major changes, uncertainties, and risks taking place in the world and their links to water resources. It gives account of the status and the trends related to water supplies, uses, management, institutions, and financing; highlights regional hot spots; and addresses issues such as gender equality, water-related disasters, health, and the role of ecosystems.
- **Managing Water Locally: An Essential Dimension of Community Water Development**, 2011. WaterAid. ([Full-text](#))

This WaterAid report addresses how monitoring and management of water resources at the community level can contribute to greater water security for those whose livelihoods and water services are often far from secure. There are many examples of effective local management, or Community-Based Water Resource Management, from across the world, some of which have been used for millennia by populations that have exploited rainfall, annual floods, groundwater and surface water to satisfy their needs. The argument of this publication is that such practices are ripe for widespread promotion.
- **Preliminary Results from a Water Economy and Livelihoods Survey (WELS) in Nigeria and Mali: Investigating Water Security Across a Rainfall Transect**, 2011. D Lapworth, British Geological Survey. ([Full-text](#))

Findings from this water, livelihoods, and economy survey in West Africa show that about 50 percent of communities in the dry season accessed less than the lower limit of recommended water use of 7.5 L/capita/day from hand pumps. Hand pumps are critical sources of water for rural populations during the dry season, but waiting times and water use data suggest that they are under stress during these periods.
- **Rio+20: Water Security for Growth and Sustainability**, 2012. Global Water

Partnership. ([Full-text](#))

To fulfill the Global Water Partnership's vision of a water secure world, this policy brief summarizes the organization's key messages for the Rio+20 Conference: the importance of water security for a green economy, institutional effectiveness, integrated approaches, leadership, and future strategies for green growth.

- **Towards Drinking Water Security in India: Lessons from the Field**, 2011.

Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development. ([Full-text](#))

Drinking water security means every rural person has adequate safe water for drinking, cooking, and other domestic basic needs on a sustainable basis. Safe water should be readily and conveniently accessible at all times and in all situations. This involves, among other factors, the design and implementation of a series of preventive measures at the basin, source, system, and household levels to protect water quality and the development of water quality testing facilities at appropriate levels in the field to ensure the quality of drinking water supply.

- **Water Security: The Water-Food-Energy-Climate Nexus**, 2011. World Economic Forum. ([Full-text](#))

Leaders from a wide range of institutions—government, industry, academia, and more—provide their perspectives on the common water challenges we face. Water's impact on agriculture, trade, national security, and business is explored as is the need to overhaul the management of fresh water to meet future social and economic needs.

- **Water for Life: Community Water Security**, n.d. Hesperian Foundation. ([Full-text](#))

This booklet describes ways to collect, store, and conserve (save) water, and to protect and treat water so it is safe to drink. This booklet promotes community awareness as a way to address water security and provides examples of how to organize for change. The solutions offered here can be applied to small water systems anywhere.

- **Science-Policy Dialogues for Water Security: Addressing Vulnerability and Adaptation to Global Change in the Arid Americas**, *Environment*, May/June 2012. C Scott. ([Full-text](#))

This article describes two interactive networks in the arid Americas that feature scientists, agency personnel, civil society, and decisionmakers who have initiated a sustained effort to reduce water vulnerability and heighten adaptation through science-policy dialogues.

WEBSITES

- **USAID Water – Water, Natural Disasters, and Climate Change**. ([Link](#))

This site provides an overview of USAID's approach to water, natural disasters, and climate change and a summary of related projects and publications, along with links to water partnerships and success stories.

- **Water Security in Peri-Urban South Asia.** ([Link](#))

The official website of a three-year project to address water security in rapidly urbanizing landscapes in four South Asian countries.

VIDEOS

- **Christophe Prevost on India's Water Security**, 2011. Water and Sanitation Program. ([Video](#))

In this video, Christophe Prevost, a senior water and sanitation specialist for the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP), discusses the objective of Towards Drinking Water Security in India compendium, from WSP and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, which highlights models of good practices from different parts of the country. He describes how this new approach differs from the work the government was doing in the water supply and sanitation sectors. This is the [link](#) to the compendium.

- **Strengthening Water Security in Africa**, 2012. African Development Bank. ([Video](#))

Access to water, women's responsibility for procuring this resource, and the ramifications of scarcity are explored in this video set in multiple African countries. Improved access through wells and taps are shown to change the lives of these rural communities.

Each WASHplus Weekly highlights topics such as Urban WASH, Indoor 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.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, creates supportive environments for healthy households and communities by delivering high-impact interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP). WASHplus uses proven, at-scale interventions 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 or email: contact@washplus.org.

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