



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Issue 67 August 17, 2012 | Focus on Water and Food Security

This issue highlights the upcoming World Water Week 2012 conference with the theme Water and Food Security. A UN website states that "people who have better access to water tend to have lower levels of undernourishment. The lack of water can be a major cause of famine and undernourishment, in particular in areas where people depend on local agriculture for food and income." Resources in this issue include the USAID Global Waters magazine issue on food security, a briefing note, Frequently Asked Questions, fact sheets, country studies and videos.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Aug 26-31, 2012, Stockholm: World Water Week 2012 - Focus on Water & Food Security.** ([Link](#))

Increasing imbalances in the world's water and food security situation are unfolding. The differences between those who have access to plenty of food, for whom water seldom is an issue, and those who are less provided for are obvious. Areas with high population growth face severe problems associated with poverty and low adaptive capacity.

BLOG POSTS

- **Clean Drinking Water Linked to Food Security in Africa**, *GALLUP World, Mar 2012.* ([Link](#))

Africans who have enough clean water to drink are more likely to also have enough food to eat, according to Gallup surveys conducted in 17 sub-Saharan African countries in 2010.

- **A Lasting Impact on Food Security**, *USAID Impact Blog, Aug 2012.* ([Link](#))

Jessica Harlt from USAID's Office of Food for Peace discusses USAID-sponsored water

management and food security projects in the DRC.

- **Water Scarcity: The Biggest Threat to Global Food Security?** *Sustainable Development in Government, Apr 2012.* ([Link](#))

Toby Pickard, Senior Sustainability Analyst at the Institute of Grocery Distribution, discusses the implications of increasing water scarcity for food security and how companies can respond to water-related risks.

NEWSLETTERS/FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Improving the Role of Water in Food Security,** *USAID Global Waters, Mar 2012.* ([Link](#))

This special edition of USAID's Global Waters e-zine explores some of the innovations that are being developed and implemented to achieve food security goals with water. From the simple engineering principles of drip irrigation to the sophisticated use of satellites in remote water sensing, there are now exciting innovations in accessing and utilizing water that no one could have imagined before.

- **Why is Water a Key to Food Security? Frequently Asked Questions,** 2012. United Nations. ([Link](#))

Food security exists when all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life. These FAQs prepared for World Water Day address a range of questions about the relationship between water, climate change and food security. Facts mentioned include: 70% of the blue water withdrawals at the global level go to irrigation; irrigated agriculture represents 20% of the total cultivated land but contributes 40% of the total food produced worldwide.

REPORTS/ARTICLES

- **Contribution of Himalayan Ecosystems to Water, Energy, and Food Security in South Asia: A Nexus Approach,** 2012. G Rasul, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. ([Full-text, pdf](#))

South Asia, while developing rapidly both industrially and economically, faces difficult challenges to meet the growing demand of its burgeoning population for food, water, and energy in the face of climatic and other socioeconomic changes. The info brief notes that it is vital to address food, water, and energy security in a holistic way, taking all the inter-linkages into account through a nexus approach. A nexus approach is a system-wise approach, rather than a sectoral approach. It can help in reducing trade-offs and generating additional benefits.

- **Food Security and Health in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Evaluate the Impact of Climate Change and Other Stress Factors,** 2012. R Kangalawe, University of Dar es Salaam. ([Full text, pdf](#))

Tanzania, like many African countries, is highly vulnerable to global environmental change, particularly climate change. This research paper highlights the impacts of environmental change, particularly climate change, on food security and human health in the southern highlands of Tanzania. The impacts of particular concern are related to food production, human health and water resources.

- **No Food Security without Water Security: Briefing Note**, 2012. Global Water Partnership. ([Full text, pdf](#))

Feeding the hungry has been a global priority for decades. Progress was made from the 1960s to the mid-1990s as the amount of food increased faster than population. Nevertheless, there are still 925 million people today who go to bed hungry, a tragic failure of the global community. Agricultural irrigation uses 70-75% of global freshwater withdrawals and up to 95% in South and Central Asia. These withdrawals are expected to increase. This has to change. One way is to grow more 'crop per drop.' More research is needed to produce crops that are drought tolerant, and there is a need to reduce losses in the supply chain with minimal waste in transport, storage, processing, selling, and in our homes.
- **Productive Sanitation and the Link to Food Security**, 2012. R Gensch, Sustainable Sanitation Alliance. ([Full text](#))

This factsheet provides information on the link between sanitation and agriculture as well as related implications on health, economy and the environment. It presents examples of treating and using treated excreta and wastewater in a productive way and describes the potential for urban agriculture and resource recovery in rural areas.
- **Reflections on Food Security under Water Scarcity**. *J Exp Bot. Aug 2011*. E Fereres, Instituto de Agricultura Sostenible (IAS). ([Full-text](#))

Forecasts on population growth and economic development indicate that there will be substantial increases in food demand for the forthcoming decades. The authors focus here on the water requirements of food production, on the issue of whether there would be enough water to produce sufficient food in the future, and they offer options to face this challenge based on recent trends observed in some agricultural systems.
- **Urban Gardens, Agriculture, and Water Management: Sources of Resilience for Long-Term Food Security in Cities**. *Ecological Economics, July 2012*. S Barthela, Stockholm University. ([Abstract](#))

This paper demonstrates urban farming as a pertinent feature of urban support systems over the long-term and global scales. It shows how urban gardens, agriculture, and water management as well as the linked social-ecological memories of how to uphold such practices over time have contributed to long-term food security during eras of energy scarcity.
- **WASH, Food Security and the Environment: Making the Links**, 2012. Brooks

Keene, CARE. ([Full text, pdf](#))

This discussion paper aims to summarize the primary linkages between food security and water, based on some current data. The paper should foster discussions among practitioner communities that sometimes operate in separate silos, and that it can be used in a common messaging with joint programmatic formulation and implementation, policy positions and advocacy actions.

- **Water and Food Security**, 2012. United Nations. ([Link](#))

This article describes UN publications and websites that discuss water and food security issues.

- **Water and Food Security Reader**, 2012. United Nations. ([Full text, pdf](#))

Produced by the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC), this reader is intended for all those interested in getting familiar with issues related to water and food security. The reader provides basic references for easy reading and some of the latest and most relevant United Nations publications on the issue. Links are provided when the publication is available online.

VIDEOS

- **An Ecosystem Services Approach to Water and Food Security**, 2011. ([Video](#))

Eline Boelee, Senior Researcher, Water and Health (IWMI), talks about an Ecosystems service approach to Water and Food Security.

- **Food Security and Sustainable Management of Shared Water Resources in the Jordan River Valley**, 2012. ([Video](#))

A presentation by Gidon Bromberg from EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East at a Food Security in the 21st Century workshop on challenges and solutions to improve water security in the Jordan River Valley.

- **Roger Calow of the Overseas Development Institute**, 2012. ([Video](#))

Roger Calow, Head of the Water Policy Programme at the Overseas Development Institute, offers new perspectives on water and food security and asks if now is the time to revisit the 2006 United Nations Human Development Report. He discusses the need to invest in water conservation and other water management methods.

- **Water: Source of Food Security**, 2012. ([Video](#))

This UN Water video shows how water scarcity in Niger is affecting the annual harvest, and how the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is helping to channel water in from nearby villages to help irrigate the crops.

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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