



*Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities*

## **Issue 68 August 24, 2012 | Focus on Multiple-Use Water Services**

This issue contains some of the most recent 2012 publications and other resources on Multiple-Use water Services (MUS). MUS is an integrated approach to water service delivery that takes people's multiple domestic and productive water needs as the starting point for planning, designing and delivering water services. The MUS approach delivers water for drinking, other domestic uses (such as cooking, cleaning, sanitation, etc.) and for priority productive uses (such as small-scale irrigated agriculture, livestock, and water-dependent enterprises).

In the past 15 years, a growing body of evidence has suggested that planning and managing water for multiple uses can enhance health, improve food security, increase incomes, and reduce workloads for women and children. According to a study conducted by Winrock International of the incremental costs and benefits of single-use versus multiple-use water services funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Renwick, et al. 2007), multiple-use water services offer significant advantages because they:

- **Generate more income and benefits** (such as improved health, nutrition, time savings, food security, and social empowerment) for a wider range of poor people (including women and the landless) than most single-use water services;
- **Decrease vulnerability** and increase resiliency by allowing more diversified livelihood strategies;
- **More effectively reduce poverty** by simultaneously addressing the multiple dimensions of poverty, and;
- **Increase sustainability** of services—productive water use generates enough income to cover on-going operation, maintenance, and replacement costs of multiple-use systems. Because they better meet the water needs of communities, MUS increases returns on community investment and decreases conflict related to water access as well as damage to infrastructure caused by "illegal" or unplanned uses.

The study also evaluated the potential market size for multiple-use water services in rural sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and found that over 1 billion poor people in five high-potential opportunity areas – on a country-by-country basis – could benefit from MUS. The financial analysis indicated that annual revenues, net of annual operating costs, were

sufficient to cover the incremental investment costs of MUS, frequently in 6-36 months. Beyond expanding poverty reduction impacts and enhancing sustainability, the revenue generation associated with MUS creates opportunities for a wider range of financing options (such as microfinance, loan guarantees linked to income-generating uses, and payment for environmental services) than do typical drinking water schemes that do not generate income.

A range of resources are available for those interested in learning more about MUS, including its potential for impact, applicability, and how to start. Below is a brief summary of some resources.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **A Guide to Multiple-Use Water Services**, Winrock and IDEO.org. ([Full text, pdf](#))  
**Implementation Guide for MUS with operational working models:** Winrock and IDEO.org created a stylized how-to guide that shows implementers, funders, and policymakers: what MUS is, how it looks in practice, and how to incorporate MUS into their own operations. The guide includes 3 operational working models rural and urban contents with components in water, health and livelihoods.
- **Guidelines for Planning and Providing Multiple-Use Water Services**, 2012. M Adank. Multiple-Use Water Services Group. ([Full text, pdf](#))  
 This document, compiled by the MUS Group, gives step-by-step guidance on planning and providing MUS and on creating an enabling environment at intermediate and national levels. It includes a reference guide to tools for organizations supporting and facilitating the provision of MUS in various contexts from different entry points.
- **Multiple-Use Water Services Fact Sheet**, 2012. Winrock International. ([Full-text, pdf](#))  
 The results of a cost-benefit analysis of single-use versus multiple-use water services suggest that investing a little more in the short term to address people's multiple needs maximizes impact in the long term.
- **Multiple Use Water Services for the Poor: Assessing the State of Knowledge**, 2007. M Renwick, et al. Winrock. ([Full text, pdf](#))  
 This peer-reviewed study is a comprehensive analysis of the relative costs, benefits and poverty impacts of multiple-use approaches over single-use approaches. It also evaluates the potential market for multiple-use approaches focusing on South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The [annexes](#) include an case studies, an extensive bibliography, and study methodology.
- **Multiple-Use Water Services (MUS): Recommendations for a Robust and Sustainable Approach**, 2012. Pacific Institute. ([Full text, pdf](#))  
 In the last decade, a new paradigm called "Multiple Use Water Services" (MUS) has emerged from the recognition by water sector professionals that the rural and peri-

urban poor need water for a variety of purposes, ranging from drinking and sanitation to growing food and other productive activities. As the name suggests, MUS aims to develop multiple community sources to meet multiple needs.

- **Multiple-Use Water Services (MUS) for Enhanced Land & Water Productivity, Gender Equity and Poverty Reduction: A Policy Brief**, 2012. Resources Centre for Sustainable Development. ([Full text, pdf](#))

The research RCSD's approach to Multiple-use water services (MUS) is about taking people's multiple water needs as the starting in planning and design of existing cropping and water resource systems.

## VIDEOS

- **Keeping the Water Flowing: Winrock's Multiple-Use Water Services**, 2012. Winrock. ([Video](#))  
**Animated MUS Advocacy Video:** Working with Matt Smithson (animator of *The Girl Effect*), Winrock and partners produced a 2-minute animated advocacy video—*Keeping the Water Flowing*--that explains what MUS is all about in a simple and compelling way.
- **Multiple Use Water System (MUS) in Nepal**, 2011. IDE Nepal. ([Video](#))  
IDE has developed 160 multiple use water systems in Nepal in collaboration with local and international partners, initially under the USAID funded Small holder Irrigation Market Initiative (SIMI). The different technologies have helped the people to generate extra income and sustain in their livelihoods.
- **Multiple-Use Water Services in Niger: The Story of Kabori Niger**, 2010. Winrock (Video in English: ([Video in English](#)) | ([Video in French](#)))  
This 6 minute video shows how Ali and Hadiza are working with Winrock's Multiple Use Water Services Project to bring irrigation and drinking water to their village of Kabori, Niger.

## WEBSITES

- **Multiple Use Water Services Group.** ([Website](#))  
The MUS Group works for the improved delivery of MUS at the household level to better support poverty reduction by conducting original research and documentation, promoting implementation and learning, and facilitating information sharing and evidence-based advocacy across sectors.
- **International Water Management Institute: Scoping Studies of MUS in Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nepal, and Tanzania.** ([Website](#))  
These scoping studies assessed the robustness of MUS and identified barriers and potential scaling pathways and partners in five countries where the potential for scaling MUS is high. From July through December 2011, the country teams conducted

interviews and held workshops with key informants and reviewed literature. In all countries except India, all modalities were studied and showed potential for innovating MUS.

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](mailto: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](http://www.washplus.org) or email: [contact@washplus.org](mailto:contact@washplus.org).

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