



SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING WATER AND SANITATION NGO

## MUS GROUP MEETING

IFAD HQ, ROME, ITALY

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# Presentation layout

- Introduction: Policy Context and its drawbacks
- Background – Mvula Trust, its interest in MUS
- Applying MUS in Rainwater Harvesting Program
- RWH Program' s achievements (linkages with MUS)
- Program's challenges (gaps i.t.o. MUS)
- Future plans
- RWH in context of MUS

# Introduction: Policy Context (1)

- South Africa as a country has progressive policies incl. sector ones (Constitution, National Water Act, etc)
- In 2006 DWA issued guidelines on MUS however implementation has been weak
- Intention of the guidelines was to recognise that rural and peri-urban communities depend on water for diversified livelihoods (self employment, employment creation and household sustenance)

# Introduction: Policy Drawbacks(1)

- However the guidelines on MUS were contradicted by local level practices – use of water from local drinking water supplies is discouraged
- Limited engagement (if at all) at local level in water planning processes– thus communities becoming ‘silenced’ in articulating their ‘real’ needs for water

# Introduction: Policy Drawbacks(2)

- Existing capacity gaps in municipalities - result in limited engagement and real participation in local services planning processes by local communities
- Discomfort by local government officials and politicians with the notion of active citizenry
- Inconsistent application of inter-governmental relations - resulting in turf jealousies between different government departments

# The Mvula Trust (1) - Background

- Founded in 1993 as national watsan NGO, operational in 7 out of 9 provinces of South Africa
- Driven by a community based model using participatory approaches
- AWARD, IWMI and WfFM have been involved in in MUS
- Mvula has worked with these organisations on other projects like WHELL, RWH



# The Mvula Trust (2) – Interest in MUS

- Mvula's interest in MUS is borne out of developing a water based rural development in South Africa addressing issues like:
  - How communities can ascend the water and sanitation ladders
  - Home based care
  - Job creation
  - Overall household livelihoods improvements



# Applying MUS in RWH (1)

- Use MUS approach for RWH
- RWH adds an extra source of water
- Initiated in 2005 to 2008 and implemented with support from DWA in two provinces – the poorest EC and Limpopo
- Primary objective: water to hhs to grow fresh food all year round, manage nutrition related diseases, minimize dependency on state welfare programs, hhs to use money on other items and not food



# Applying MUS in RWH (2)

- Minimum requirements for participation in RWH: willingness to participate in the program and demonstrate initiatives in food production
- Methodology – consultative and participatory. Participants chosen by the rest of the community through PRA exercises
- Process started off with consultations with local stakeholders, i.e. community development committees, councilors, traditional authorities etc.

# Applying MUS in RWH (3)

- Followed by community meetings using broad tools like matrices (IGAs), gender roles, physical/resource maps
- Wellbeing/livelihood ranking exercise conducted to understand livelihood patterns of households (CAR in HLSA).
- Information triangulated through household interviews using a random but reasonable sample from all the wellbeing categories identified

# Applying MUS in RWH (4)

- In keeping with its community based approach The Mvula Trust trained unemployed post Grade 12 students to conduct the interviews. This contributed to skills and LED improvement in the area
- Mind mobilisation exercises (Water for Food Movement) were used to prepare selected households for the project
- MUS places rain water harvesting in context of the total water economy and useful for the planners and regulators that control water sources

# RWH's successes – link to MUS

- Challenged single source and use of water as 'only needed' form of service delivery
- Demonstrated potential in livelihoods improvements through provision of multiple sources of water for multiple uses
- Investment in local capacity is key in ownership and driving of the project
- Investment in infrastructure – provision of the tanks by government and communities digging the holes

# RWH's Challenges (opportunities for MUS)

- Top down approach to service delivery – only single source and use of water is recognised as 'legal'
- Develop productive water approach for all to counter current restrictions
- Dynamics in 'community self selection' processes
- Getting over expectation of 'state handouts' hurdle

# RWH's Challenges (opportunities for MUS) cont...

- Water quality – people drink from RWH tanks – filters?
- Integrate various uses including sanitation, home based care for people living with HIV/Aids
- Develop water-centred rural development approach for Mvula

# Future Plans

- Submitted funding proposal to African Water Facility as part of a consortium with Eau Vive (Burkina Faso), IWMI, MUS Group, Picoteam, IRC
- Mvula's role is to lead the project and facilitate innovation of a community driven MUS in local government context
- Being part of national, continental and international learning alliances
- Gain knowledge, experiences, skills in MUS and share lessons internally and externally
- Community MUS planning and implementation







