

Minutes MUS Group meeting, held at IFAD, ROME

1 June 2011

Update with activities by MUS Group members:

As usual, the meeting proper started with an update by members on MUS-related activities:

- Emily Kovich (**Winrock**) made a short presentation on Winrock's project in Niger of providing reliable access to water for domestic and productive uses. The MUS approach is based on a livelihoods analysis, using a matrix to assess which sources can be used for different uses. Emily also mentioned that Winrock is going to work further on MUS in Tanzania, India and Rwanda. Linked to the WA-WASH programme there will also be MUS work in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali. Also, it will develop working models for Rockefeller Foundation by end Oct.
- Henk Holtslag (**Connect International**) presented the experiences with SMART centres in Tanzania. As part of that project, capacity is built for local private sector organisations in low-cost technologies, and thereby strive for cost reduction. Also in Tanzania he is involved in support to the Winrock programme, and seeks collaboration with Winrock in Burkina Faso
- **Eau Vive** (represented by Juste Nansi and Oumarou Hamani) has submitted a proposal to the AfDB together with IWMI, IRC and the Mvula Trust for MUS in Burkina Faso.
- Sam Carmalt. No specific activities at this point, but will share lessons learnt with his colleagues.
- Mascha Singeling (**Plan Netherlands**). Plan has two MUS projects running, linked to a CLTS project in Zambia and Mali. In addition, writing proposals now, particularly for school garden projects. Once this work is documented, she will share with the Group.
- CG Raj (**iDE**). Will start looking into a sanitation component for MUS. Will also get a sub-contract with FAO for MUS projects.
- Ard Schoemaker (**RAIN**). Busy finalising identification of lessons learnt from the MUS pilot project in Nepal. In addition, the main new activity will be the MUSRAIN project.
- Chris Morger (**Intercorporation**). SDC approved new credit line for water projects in Tanzania, Nepal and Pakistan, but this is not very concrete yet. But, we will seek a MUS approach in this. He also mentioned that Intercorporation will merge with Helvetas.
- **IRC** (Kurian Baby, Stef Smits, Amélie Dubé and Marieke Adank) is working on various things, including the writing of a chapter on MUS in Ethiopia with the outcomes of the RiPPPLE project. It is suggested the chapter is reviewed by someone from the MUS Group. Marieke to take action on that. Furthermore, piloting of MUS in Honduras is continuing and a synthesis document will be available the second half of this year. The guidelines for piloting MUS in Zimbabwe have been finalised and are available on the Group's website.
- Jeanette Cooke and Audrey Nepveu (**IFAD**) will finalise the rainwater harvesting model. In addition, there will be a briefing for country portfolio managers this afternoon. It will also carry out a mapping of investment opportunities in Asia.
- Gao Zhinya (**China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research**) expresses his thanks for participating and hopes a next MUS Group meeting can be held in China
- Domitille Vallée and Robina Wahaj (**FAO**). FAO is carrying out a project on reviewing innovations in agricultural water management solutions in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia and India (Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal). The MUS Group is asked to provide contacts for these countries. With respect to MASSMUS, there are no further assessments planned. But there are some upcoming MASSCOTE assessments in which MUS surely will come back. In addition, FAO is also working on including a gender module into the MASSMUS approach. A consultant is working on this and will present her work in Rome at the end of June. Whoever is around is invited.
- Barbara van Koppen, Shilp Verma and Malik Ravinder (**IWMI**) are busy preparing a proposal for a scoping study on scaling up in MUS in Tanzania, Ghana, Nepal, India and Ethiopia for the Rockefeller Foundation. This will be done together with IRC and should be ready by the end of October. In addition, IWMI will continue further studies on NREGA.

- Kabir Das Rajbhandari (**WaterAid Nepal**) will continue engagement with NEWAH on MUS in their rural water programme and review the lessons of that experience. Will also further promote WUMP and look into replicating this in urban areas. Finally, he will work on various proposals to see how MUS can be included there and share these with other WaterAid offices.

Action points:

- Marieke to identify reviewer from MUS Group for the chapter with results on MUS of the RiPPLE Ethiopia project book
- Stef to provide Domitille with key contacts for MUS in the 5 countries of the AWM project. Domitille will share her contacts for the MUS Group mailing list with Stef
- Kabir to share the results of this meeting back to the WaterAid London office

Upcoming events

- In the World Water Week in Stockholm FAO and WHO organise a session on water quality regulations and standards. Whoever is there is invited.
- World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012.
 - o There are 12 themes, and FAO is in charge of the theme on water and food security.. For this theme, only one Skype conference call has been had so far, but targets and proposed solutions have been identified. As part of that theme, there will be village of solutions, with practical approaches to address water management problems. This may be of interest to the MUS Group members to show some of their practical MUS models.
 - o There is another theme on balancing multiple-uses of water. Both Eau Vive and FAO are part of that group. At the last meeting it was agreed we would as a group not take a lead role. But when it becomes clear how we can contribute with cases, we can always do that.
- ICID congress Oct 15-23 Teheran. There will be a session on the whole MASSCOTE family of approaches to modernization of canal irrigation. MASSMUS will be part of that. Whoever is there, is invited.
- Rural Water Supply Network Forum from 29 Nov – 1 Dec in Kampala. This focuses on rural water supply and may be of interested, particularly for domestic-plus approaches. Deadline for papers is 30 June.

Action points:

- Robina will send details of the Stockholm session on water quality standards and regulations
- Domitille will send the group more on the water for food security session, particularly on the village of solutions, so it can become clear how we can contribute
- Robina will update the group on the WWF session on multiple-uses to see whether and how it can contribute
- Robina will send details on the ICID conference and MASSCOTE session

Update from the secretariat

Stef presented an update from the secretariat. The details can be found on <http://www.musgroup.net/page/1367>

The main points of discussion were:

- There is an idea to produce a Smart MUS Solutions booklet, a next issue in an existing series highlighting practical experiences with MUS. The production of such a booklet does not have high costs, but it is demanding in terms of time. Mascha and Stef will find out from NWP.
- FAO/MUS Group publication. The Group once started working on such a publication, but this was stopped for various reasons. The idea was revitalised by Robina after discussing it within FAO. There is the possibility to publish a FAO Irrigation and Drainage Paper, which has high standing

but takes 2-3 years to produce, or for a shorter and more quickly produced issue paper. We agreed FAO would develop a publication profile based on the work already done on this at an earlier stage.

- No follow up was given to the idea to have a UN Water task force on MUS. We feel it will probably not go anywhere, but worth one more try. FAO will take this up.
- Brochure for the MUS Group. Stef presented a draft brochure developed by IRC for the MUS Group and explained the rationale for the set up as presented. Points of feed-back included:
 - Include “why MUS?” into the heading on page 1
 - Make the text shorter on page 1, and less conceptual
 - Be less modest, and explain the key successes. For example, page 1 should present some of the cost-benefit figures and highlight them in the sidebar
 - Include a simple diagram of what MUS is
 - In “about the MUS Group” the added value of the group should be sold better, by 1) mentioning how many cases are available, 2) how many members there are in the network and where they are from – maybe even add a map with key MUS countries
- It is noted that recently there have not been many new members subscribing to the mailing list. We should all encourage our MUS partners and colleagues to join the mailing list
- Funding for the MUS Group comes and goes. Last year FAO and WSSCC funded the Group. This year IFAD provides support. Realizing that funding for secretariat functions of a Group is difficult to find, it is recommended that the secretariat writes a concept note for funding. A concrete possibility is submitting such a note to FAO by the end of the year.

Action points:

- Stef and Mascha to find out the details of producing a Smart MUS Solutions booklet with NWP.
- Robina to develop a profile for the FAO/MUS Group publication, based on existing outline and submit that to FAO management
- Robina will follow up on UN Water Task Force with Pasquale
- All members send written feed-back on the brochure latest by 12 June
- Stef take feed-back on the brochure and make a second draft
- Stef to add participants of this meeting to the MUS mailing list
- All members to inform Stef of people from your country or organisation who might be interested in joining the MUS mailing list
- Stef and Barbara: write concept note for the MUS Group secretariat, and submit to FAO by November.

Strategizing on MUS Group as learning alliance

Following the end of the discussion on the update of the secretariat, the Group discussed the mid-term strategy of the group. It was observed that initially the MUS Group focused a lot on advocacy for MUS. Over the last two-three years, it has focused more on learning, and bringing lessons together from different members, to further strengthen our understanding, for example around the guidelines and on cost-benefit analyses for MUS. Members feel that the time is now ready to go out and do more advocacy, as we can now also put forward the advocacy message that we know how to do MUS.

That would need then also a clear advocacy strategy, as part of the broader strategy of the MUS Group. All members are asked to think about it in preparation of the next meeting, but also the secretariat will prepare a discussion document as basis for the debate at a next meeting. In the meantime, we can start up some more advocacy work by:

- Showcasing short videos of the members on MUS on our website. There are already videos from Winrock, from Connect International, from iDE, from Zimbabwe and possibly from MASSMUS Chine
- Ensure participation in the World Water Forum with innovative cases

- Newsletter articles. We shouldn't only write on MUS in the Group's newsletter but also in newsletters of our home organisations
- Planning of an event at next year's Stockholm World Water Week

Action points

- All members to share short videos, so link can be put on website
- Stef and Barbara to prepare a discussion note with ideas for the long-term strategy of the MUS Group for the next 3-5 years
- All members to think and bring ideas to the table on the long-term strategy for the Group

Any other business

Stef mentioned that the term of Barbara and Stef expires as Coordinator and Secretary respectively in August. By the time of the next meeting we need to have elected new officers, or extend the term of them both. The procedure for the election and ToR for the officers are in the governance note. It must be noted that these functions do require a time commitment.

Action points

- Stef to send around ToR for both functions to the core group
- Interested candidates need to let Stef know before 31 August
- Stef to organise the election based on the procedures and availability of candidates for both positions.

Next meeting:

On the agenda are the presentation of the final generic guidelines and the long-term strategy of the MUS Group, as well as further issues that may arise over the coming period.

Winrock repeats its interest to host a meeting in the USA, probably around mid November. That could then also be more advocacy-focused towards USA-based organisations and donors. Stef will follow up with Mary Renwick.

For next year, Mr. Gao expressed interest in hosting a meeting in Beijing, China, somewhere in spring. Also organising a meeting back-to-back with the World Water Forum is mentioned, depending on availability of members at that event.

Action points

- Stef, Barbara and Mary to discuss the proposal for a next meeting in the USA further and come with a proposal