



Making a SPLASH! **Newsletter 17 – March 2012**

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1. Update from the SPLASH project manager

A message from Miriam Feilberg

Dear SPLASH partners, members of the Scientific Advisory Council, Strategic Management Board and all colleagues who take an interest in research into water and development,

This phase of SPLASH is now coming to an end, as the funds received by the EU FP6 have been spent and our final report has now been submitted to the EU. It is time to take stock of our achievements and also to look forward to new activities. We successfully facilitated a truly joint call for research on sanitation service chains in Africa, and so SPLASH will continue in this form. ADA (Austria), MAEE (France), SIDA (Sweden), SDC (Switzerland), DFID (UK) and BMGF (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) have provided 1.9 million Euros to fund five projects with partners from 12 different countries in Europe and Africa. For more information see:

http://www.splash-era.net/san_res.php.

It is important to reflect on the achievement of the SPLASH objectives, which were to:

- ***Coordinate between existing programmes to minimize duplication and identify gaps***
We have provided tools to achieve this and overviews of research institutions, projects and funders are available on our website in tools such as the “Yellow Pages”:
<http://www.splash-era.net/yell/>. We have also facilitated coordination activities in the Mekong, Ethiopia and the Niger Basin. A subsequent coordination workshop in the Volta Basin was held which was inspired by our work.
- ***Ensure that good research management practice is known and used***
We have developed a range of resources that document our activities in this field and a course on Research Management, which is now available online:
http://splash-era.net/res-man_course.php. ‘Research Management’ was seen by many stakeholders as a skills gap and we hope this will enable more researchers in low-income countries to take part in international consortia.
- ***Improve knowledge sharing between researchers and practitioners to speed up the transfer of research findings into policy and practice***

Besides collecting and documenting Best Practices we have had concrete activities related to groundwater in Africa and sustainable hydropower in the Mekong region.

- **Jointly fund activities that can benefit from a transnational approach, with European partners working together**

The sanitation research programme is one activity. We have also documented the need for joint research on Decision Support Systems for IWRM, which is ready to be developed in a next phase of this project.

In 2011 we were very busy disseminating our experiences and lessons. You can read a short version of our lessons learned in an article in International Innovation to be found at http://www.splash-era.net/news_article.php. We have also developed a Toolkit, which provides an overview and searchable entry point to all our work (<http://www.splash-era.net/toolkit/>).

Looking into the future we hope that the results of SPLASH will be taken forward in the next phase of EUWI – The EU Water Initiative as a Knowledge Management Task Force. This will probably be announced during World Water Week in Stockholm and we hope for your support to ensure that all the lessons learned from SPLASH will be used for new initiatives. We will follow the process closely and keep you informed.

I have only been coordinator of SPLASH for the last year of the project and had the challenge to take over from Anne Blenkinsopp, who worked so hard to make SPLASH a success. On a final note I would like to say that it has been a true pleasure working with this network of enthusiastic and dedicated people from all sorts of organisations around the world. I hope that we will be able to work together in the future.

Miriam Feilberg mfe@dhigroup.com

2. New SPLASH toolkit of resources

There is now an easier way to search for and find SPLASH materials using the new SPLASH toolkit at <http://www.splash-era.net/toolkit/> brings together all the various resources produced by the project. These have been categorised in a number of ways to make searching easier, that is, by the type of FORMAT (e.g. newsletter, factsheet), by the type of USER you are as the information has been assessed for its potential usefulness for each user group, by CONTENT areas, and lastly you can search for information with relevance to a

particular REGION. Of course it is possible to combine any or all of these categories while searching.

3. SPLASH Research Management Course available

This course has been developed by SPLASH and is intended as resource material for use by universities and research institutes that wish to run courses on research management for water for development. However, the course is generic in its approach and may be applicable to non-water sectors, too. The resource materials provide an entry point for preparing a course on research management. Users of the materials should add to that provided here particularly with a view to contextualizing the course for its audience.

The course material units are available to anyone interested as a free download from the website:

http://www.splash-era.net/res-man_course.php

The complete course book is available at http://www.splash-era.net/downloads/RM/Research_Management_book.pdf

Please contact instructors Frank Odhiambo (f.o.odhiambo@lboro.ac.uk) of WEDC, Loughborough University or Peter Furu (pfu@life.ku.dk) of the University of Copenhagen (representing the Danish Water Forum) for more information.

4. Needs assessment to support Groundwater Resources Management in the Lake and River Basin Organizations of Africa

The aim of this work is to get an overview of how far groundwater is considered and institutionalized by transboundary lake and river basin organisations in Africa and how this is integrated into the national water strategy activities and capacity building plans of the riparian countries. On behalf of SPLASH, WaterNet has produced nine transboundary basin/aquifer profiles in West and East Africa as well as in the SADC Region. As a second step, the basin profiles will be used for conducting interviews with the individual R/LBOs and member states to be then integrated into a handbook. Next year, BGR will conduct a workshop where all R/LBOs who participated will be invited to exchange lessons learnt and best practices.

A report is now available at:
http://www.splash-era.net/downloads/D8-6_Transboundary_River_Basins.pdf

For further information, contact Vanessa Vaessen
Vanessa.Vaessen@bgr.de.

5. Using modern decision support systems for evidence-based policy making in IWRM in developing countries

CMCC, the Italian SPLASH consortium partner, has completed a study on 'Using modern decision support systems for evidence-based policy making in IWRM in developing countries'. This is now available on the website at:

http://www.splash-era.net/downloads/D9-4_D9-5_DSS_for_IWRM.pdf

A factsheet is also available at:

http://www.splash-era.net/downloads/SPLASH_Fact_Sheet_17.pdf

For more information, contact Carlo Giupponi
carlo.giupponi@feem.it.

6. Showcasing SPLASH sanitation research projects

There are five projects within the SPLASH sanitation research programme, information about which is available on the SPLASH website at
http://www.splash-era.net/san_res.php

Class-A side event at the World Water Forum, Marseilles

At the recent World Water Forum in Marseille, the International Water Association, lead co-ordinator of the Class-A research project, organised a side event to discuss the methodologies being developed in the SPLASH funded project and a related project funded by ICLEI, and their application for assessing and managing health risks associated with sanitation systems.

Dr. David Sutherland kicked off with a perspective from WHO of sanitation safety planning and the relationship with water safety planning. He stressed the importance of clarifying the scope of sanitation safety planning in relation to on-site sanitation and facilities for downstream wastewater disposal and reuse.

Philippa Ross from University College London gave a presentation focussing on the participatory methodology for environmental health risk assessment and management with particular

emphasis on the interactions between the local authority and other stakeholders with vested interests in improving sanitation from Provincial Government down to the community level.

Lucinda Fairhurst from ICLEI-Africa then gave a presentation on adapting sanitation systems to climate change through participatory research and local action. Her presentation highlighted how sanitation is closely linked to drainage and how climate change is perceived at the community level towards exacerbating environmental health risks.

The presentations provided the opportunity for participants to review and discuss the methodologies that are being applied and consider their relevance and potential application within the context of sanitation safety planning. Sidoine Ravet from SUEZ Environment, and representing project partner W-SMART, noted that the approaches have considerable potential, in particular by involving all stakeholders, but raised some concern about the use of the terminology, sanitation safety planning, as the outcome is not linked to the quality of one specific good, but to health which is much wider. However, the side event concluded that the methodologies being developed and applied in Matupo may be used to support local authorities engage with communities in a participatory planning approach to develop strategies to reduce sanitation related risks.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Parkinson
parkinson@iwahq.org

MAFADY: Mastering the sanitation chain from the household level in the coastal zone of Douala, and in the slums of Yaoundé, Cameroon – Progress update to March 2012

The MAFADY project has seven work packages; five are of scientific interest and two relate to development support. The study covers 4,949 hectares and has an estimated population of about 185,000 inhabitants. The work packages are subdivided into twenty two sub-activities, with twelve related to management and coordination.

To date, ten scientific sub-activities have been carried out, of which four are complete and six are being finalized. The results of the project have been discussed with sanitation actors at national and international levels. In the first year, monitoring groups met three times, and there have been eleven monthly meetings of partners from the South, and three management committee meetings of partners and associates from the North. In addition, four restitution meetings with the public took place in December 2011 and January

2012. Finally, a national annual workshop, to disseminate year one results will be held at the ENSP of Yaoundé on March 29th 2012. During this workshop, there will be six scientific presentations, and a meeting of all MAFADY project partners and actors in charge of sanitation. Five project outputs, one article, three dissertations and two internship reports are available.



Dumping area for faecal sludges in Douala
Photo: Roger Feumba



Restitution meeting, Yaoundé
Photo: Roger Feumba

For further information, please contact: Emmanuel Ngnikam, Project Manager, Lecturer and researcher at the ENSP of Yaoundé emma_ngnikam@yahoo.fr; and Roger Feumba, Assistant Project Manager, Teaching Fellow and Research at the University of Yaounde I, Faculty of Sciences rfeumba2002@yahoo.fr

U-ACT flyer

A flyer is now available for the Urban Affordable Clean Toilets (U-ACT) project at: http://www.splash-era.net/downloads/SRP_U-ACT_Flyer.pdf. This completes the set of flyers, all of which are available at: http://www.splash-era.net/san_res.php

3KSan update on activities

Dissemination, in its various forms, has been an important focus of the 3KSan project since the beginning of this year. By the end of 2011, the first drafts of the diagnostic reports for Kampala, Kisumu and Kigali had been completed in preparation for critical review by the key stakeholders in sanitation in the three cities. In the context of the three research themes that make up the 3KSan project, each diagnostic report compiled and presented the existing knowledge regarding sanitation provision, and identified the knowledge gaps that will help to direct the research during the coming 18 months. These reports have now been presented to stakeholders in all three cities and their feedback is being incorporated into the final drafts of the reports.



Latrine emptiers, Kampala
Photos: Kenan Okurut

During February, Aime, Jane and Kenan, together with their recently appointed research assistants, met at the Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) in Kigali to receive training in the social research methods that they will be using to collect and analyse data from the urban communities that they will be working with. The training programme was developed and given by Professor Pamela Abbott of IPAR. Apart from the trained participants, three outputs from the meeting were a detailed programme and timetable for the field work, a draft outline of the methods manual, and detailed survey tools that will be piloted in the three countries in April and May.



Research training event
Photo: Kenan Okurut

Finally, the 3KSan project was represented at a sanitation dissemination workshop in Kampala on the 20th March, and has had a paper accepted for presentation at a Legal Research Symposium that will be hosted by COBRA 2012 in Las Vegas, USA, later this year (<http://www.cobra2012.com/>). The workshop was organised by the SCUSA research

project (Integrated approaches and strategies to address the Sanitation Crisis in Unsewered Slum Areas in African mega-cities). SCUSA is a cooperation between UNESCO-IHE Institute of Water Education, Makerere University and Kampala Capital City Authority, that has been researching the impact of poor sanitation in the slums of Kampala. Kenan presented the work of the 3KSan consortium to the participants at the workshop.

Presentations by SPLASH consortium partners working in Kampala (3K-SAN, U-ACT and FaME) highlighted the breadth of work that is taking place along the sanitation service chain. The paper that has accepted for presentation at COBRA 2012 is titled “Enforcement of the right to sanitation in East Africa” and explores why the express provisions on the right to sanitation in Kenya have not led to the enforcement of the right to sanitation and what strategies can be implemented for effective enforcement.

For further information, please contact Steve Pedley S.Pedley@surrey.ac.uk

Contact SPLASH: Miriam Feilberg, Programme Manager, Danish Water Forum mfe@dhigroup.com
Visit the SPLASH Website: <http://www.splash-era.net>
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Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested. Thank you!