



Making a SPLASH! ***Newsletter 18 – September 2012***

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1. SPLASH in Stockholm August 2012

10th Anniversary of the European Union Water Initiative

In celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) a special session was held during World Water Week in August. Participants looked back at the achievements of the Water Initiative and discussed its future role in European development assistance.

Being the research component of EUWI, SPLASH gave a joint presentation together with the EU Joint Research Centre on Improving Research, Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing on Water and Development. The presentation introduced results from SPLASH and the Centres of Excellence, such as the SPLASH Sanitation Research Programme (see http://www.splash-era.net/san_res.php), the recently developed SPLASH research management course (see http://www.splash-era.net/res-man_course.php), and the coordination workshops held in Ethiopia, Niger and Volta Basins.

Miriam Feilberg (DWF and SPLASH coordinator in 2011) also presented the SPLASH Toolkit (see <http://splash-era.net/toolkit/>), which provides stakeholders with an overview of all SPLASH lessons and resources.

For more details contact Miriam Feilberg
mfe@dhigroup.com

2. The SPLASH Sanitation Research Programme

A key achievement of the SPLASH ERA-net was the development of a jointly funded research programme. The programme was designed based on the learning and recommendations for good research management practice developed by the SPLASH ERA-net, and is jointly funded by the Governments of Austria, France, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and BMGF (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). Five projects began work in April 2011, researching various aspects of the sanitation service chain in urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

Good overall programme progress was reported to the Steering Committee which was convened in Stockholm during the World Water Week. The meeting included donors, project staff and members of the programme coordination and technical review. The annual reporting and recommended actions were discussed and approved. The Steering Committee also reflected on aspects of the programme design, and considered how these might be strengthened in the development of a possible future programme, which will be discussed in more detail next year.

Further information about the SPLASH sanitation research programme is available on the SPLASH website at http://www.splash-era.net/san_res.php. Contact Anne Blenkinsopp at F.A.Blenkinsopp@lboro.ac.uk

Project updates:

MAFADY: Mastering the sanitation chain from the household level in the coastal zone of Douala, and in the slums of Yaoundé, Cameroon

MAFADY is concerned with the sanitation chain (i.e. faecal sludge and wastewater from households) in the coastal zone of Douala and the slums of Yaoundé. The lack of improved sanitation in households results in the spread of waterborne diseases in these areas. Six organizations are involved in this project, with the lead taken by the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Polytechnique de Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The MAFADY project focuses on the following questions:

- What sanitation practices are in force in poor neighbourhoods and coastal areas in Cameroon?
- What approaches are used to improve the sanitation and hygiene sectors in African cities?
- Which approach should be used to develop a concerted sanitation strategy for sanitation in large cities?

To date, seven sub-scientific activities have been discussed, of which two are fully completed. The characterization of sludge in Yaoundé was completed in July. The fourth South Steering Committee was held in July at the City Hall of Douala IV. The North Steering Committee was held in May in Strasbourg, France. Three meetings to disseminate the results of the first year of the project will be organized in each of the cities of Douala and Yaoundé. In addition, meetings with trucker drain services are to be arranged in Douala and Yaoundé with the aim of understanding the difficulties of managing sewage sludge.

Two theses are now available on the Management and Mobilization of Water Resources; one from ZIE (Burkina-Faso) and one from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines. The ENGEES intern is working on the quantification and characterization of sludge in the cities of Douala and Yaoundé and will support its statement in early September 2012 in France.

For further information, please see the MAFADY project flyer at http://splash-era.net/downloads/SRP_MAFADY_flyer.pdf or 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 Yaoundé I, Faculty of Sciences rfeumba2002@yahoo.fr



*Sampling sewage sludge for analysis
Photo: Sylvie Chantal*

U-ACT: Urban Affordable Clean Toilets

The overall goal of U-ACT is to analyse the urban poor's sanitation situation and to design and empirically evaluate economic and social interventions to improve sanitation access and sanitation maintenance in urban slums. The research is located in the low-income areas of Uganda's capital, Kampala, a setting which is representative of many urban centres in sub-Saharan Africa.

The U-ACT project focuses on the following questions:

- What are the economic constraints to investment in sanitation in the slums of Kampala?
- What financing/organizational options work to increase demand for sanitation in the slums of Kampala?
- What is the social structure of Kampala's slums? Can it explain the low maintenance (cleaning and emptying) of shared toilets in Kampala?
- Can social interventions help to improve toilet maintenance in the slums of Kampala?

Three organizations are involved in this project, with the lead taken by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich Centre for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland.

Over the past months, the Urban Affordable Clean Toilets (U-ACT) project has been active in field implementation activities in Kampala, Uganda, and also in several dissemination efforts in and outside the country.

The economic part of the project has implemented a randomized controlled trial, reaching 1,200 poor households in 40 slums. The promotion of innovative financial mechanisms has been finalized and the resulting data is currently analysed. As a result of this field trial, 136 of about 160 planned VIP latrines have so far been constructed, which will directly benefit at least 1,500 poor slum dwellers in Kampala.

Regarding the sociological activities, a pilot study on social cohesion and its effect on sanitation maintenance have been conducted in six Kampala slum zones and the collected data are currently being analysed.

With respect to dissemination, a video based on the baseline survey research results (which had been highlighted in the first U-ACT policy brief in July 2011) was produced in collaboration with GIZ and has been published. The video can be watched at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJn7oFnSQWA>.

For more information on U-ACT, a project website has been established at:

<http://www.nadel.ethz.ch/forschung/u-act>

For more information, please see the U-ACT project flyer at

http://splash-era.net/downloads/SRP_U-ACT_Flyer.pdf

or contact Isabel Günther

isabel.guenther@nadel.ethz.ch



U-ACT VIP latrine next to household's old latrine

Photo: Alexandra C. Horst

3. A reminder about SPLASH online resources

Finally a reminder about the wide range of resources available for all to use on the SPLASH website. There is now an easier way to search for and find these using the new SPLASH toolkit at <http://www.splash-era.net/toolkit/>. This 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 (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.

Also available now is the free **SPLASH Research Management Course**. This 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.

The course material units are available to anyone interested as a free download from the SPLASH web page

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

The complete course book is available at

http://splash-era.net/downloads/RM/Research_Management_book.pdf

Please contact course 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.

Contact SPLASH:

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<http://www.splash-era.net>

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Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested. Thank you!