

CARE Water News – February 2013 Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to share this edition of the CARE Water bulletin with you, which includes an interview with Alan Nicol of GWI East Africa. Included below are some water-related events and resources that may be of interest. We hope this monthly email will help keep you up-to-date on happenings in the sector and we would love to receive your contributions for inclusion in subsequent bulletins. Please send any interesting documents, videos, photos, articles, opinion pieces, or other news highlighting your work in water to mreichwage@care.org.

Around the CARE World



GWI East Africa Exploring the Heterogeneity of Women's Experiences in Water + Initiatives

Women's experiences are not homogeneous and yet water+ programs often report benefits to them as a whole, for example in terms of reduced burden, increased dignity, and livelihood and empowering opportunities. To better understand the real impact of water+ on particular categories of women and how the demographics of beneficiaries might affect the outcomes of a program, the Global Water Initiative (GWI) East Africa administered a women's experiences snapshot questionnaire.

[Read the findings](#)



World Walks for Water and Sanitation 2013

The World Walks for Water and Sanitation 2013 campaign, of which CARE is a part, is a global walk to demand political change. 151,872 people have already signed up! To get involved, organize or join a walk around World Water Day from March 16th to 24th, 2013. Your walk can take place anywhere with any amount of people and be of any length – just have fun! Invite politicians to walk with you or deliver a petition to their offices calling on them to keep their promises on water and sanitation.

[Learn more and sign up](#)

Women for Water Webinar Recap

In December, Malaika Cheney-Coker, Learning and Influencing Advisor for the CARE Water Team presented findings from the GWI East Africa Women's Experiences Snapshot study.

[See the full video and slides from the webinar](#)



Get to know Alan Nicol, Regional Director for GWI in East Africa

Alan Nicol is the new Regional Director for the Global Water Initiative (GWI) in East Africa as of November 2012. He has over 15 years of professional experience establishing and leading policy-related research programmes, including three years in Ethiopia with Overseas Development Institute Directing the RiPPLE Research Consortium.

How did you become interested in water issues?

Aside from the general fascination with water that all humans display, my interest was largely drawn from experience in Egypt in the early part of my



career. I started work and research in the lower reaches of the River Nile, continued up to Sudan and eventually found myself in Ethiopia at the source of the Abbay, and now in Uganda, near Lake Victoria. If you live near or work beside the Nile, you can't avoid developing a fascination with water issues – including the complexities of human-water interaction at all levels from deep socio-cultural beliefs at a local level to hydro-political challenges between countries. It also brings into stark relief the critical dependence we have on a vital – yet fragile – resource.

What is the most interesting part of your job? Why?

By far, working with people. I'm always fascinated by the ingenuity, skills and capacities of people in this part of the world, and by the fact that I can contribute, through projects such as this, to building even stronger skills and capacities – including those related to water as a key resource. In this project, we're making very explicit linkages between human/food security and using water more effectively in agriculture. It's a fascinating area, and, in relation to rainfed farming systems, one that is often overlooked (or overshadowed, at least) by its global sister areas of 'domestic' water use or transboundary water issues. I'm sure we can achieve something really significant through building the right relationships and networks in East Africa on water for agriculture.

Have you worked with CARE in the past? In what capacity?

Only as a consultant, but I'm looking forward to many more years with the organisation!

What do you feel are the largest challenges confronting the WASH sector in East Africa in the next 5 years?

I recognize the significance of climate change as a driver of major structural shifts in seasonal and interannual water availability, but, based on my experience, the greatest challenge by far is poverty. Whilst water provision and more effective use can assist pathways out of poverty, it is not a sufficient factor. At root are issues of employment, education and equality – the wider development environment, if you like. Without progress in these areas I believe the WASH sector will continue to face serious challenges. In short, progress needs to be made on multiple fronts. Progress on WASH will provide important contributions to livelihoods security, but in the longer term sustainable service delivery will be dependent on rising income levels across a broad swath of the population.

What is your favorite dish/meal?

Grilled Tilapia, fresh from Lake Victoria. Heaven sent.

What is your favorite jet lag remedy?

Not flying. Or if I can, travel by rail, but in East Africa at the moment that's a tricky (though not impossible) option. If I have to fly I drink plenty (of water) and choose an A380, where feasible. They seem to have got the cabin environment right.

If you could have a significant impact on one WASH related behavior, which would you choose?

- Open defecation
- Handwashing

- Safe water storage
- Water treatment
- ✓ Water conservation

Which is your favorite toilet or sanitation technology?

- PeePoo
- ArborLoo
- Ventilated Pit Latrine
- ✓ Biogas toilet
- Urine diverting toilet

Other Updates

Water, Cultural Diversity and Global Environmental Change: Emerging Trends, Sustainable Futures

This 560 page book published by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in December 2011 is now available for free online! The book offers an array of ideas, concepts, and tools to understand and manage the sociocultural implications of the growing water crisis, and to suggest alternative pathways to sustainability.

[Access the free book](#)

Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas

The World Resources Institute just unveiled a new online tool, The Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas, which maps the state of freshwater globally. The interface allows users to visualize and compare water conditions, from the continental scale to the local one. The atlas, three years in the making, harnesses the latest geo-tagged scientific data to create 12 different indicators of water quality, including drought, flood and seasonal variability. The indicators visually overlay one another to create a composite view of aggregate water stress. The ecosystems layer, for example, highlights fragile habitats where freshwater fishes, amphibians and birds may live, while the groundwater supply layer — the first of its kind to be included in such an analysis — indicates places where aquifers might be drying up. Not every user, however, defines risk in the same way, and the tool enables you to weight different indicators accordingly. More advanced users can shape the maps to fit individual needs.

[Explore the tool](#)

Global Review of Sanitation System Trends and Interactions with Menstrual Management Practices

The Stockholm Environment Institute has published a review of the trends in the development of urban sanitation systems. The paper explores the interaction between menstrual management and sanitation systems, mainly focusing on the issue of disposal of used menstrual blood absorption materials. It concludes with a proposed framework of interactions by positioning a range of issues of particular relevance for menstrual management into the different parts of the sanitation system.

[Read the report](#)

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