

CARE Water News – January 2014 Bulletin

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Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to share the latest edition of the CARE Water News Bulletin with you, which includes a synthesis of the first CARE Water+ e-debate, an interview with Solo Razafinjato of CARE Madagascar and a feature on CARE Ghana's WA-WASH program. We hope this monthly email will help keep you up-to-date on happenings in the sector. If you have contributions for inclusion in subsequent bulletins, we would love to receive them; please send any interesting documents, videos, photos, articles, opinion pieces, or other news highlighting your work in water to sgloor@care.org.

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Around the CARE World



Water+ E-Debate

First CARE Water+ News E-Debate Roundup

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the first CARE Water+ News e-debate, held January 21-28. The topic was: ***Is it time to move beyond community management of water schemes?***

Based on our responses, the answer seems to be that community management of water schemes is still relevant; however, we need to make significant changes in terms of supporting community management structures over the long term.

Jonathan Annis, Sanitation and Innovation Advisor with WASHPlus, kicked off the discussion by offering us a bit of history: community management is grounded in the concept of community participation that came about during the 1980s. This model gave NGOs more leverage to bypass incapable local governments and work directly with communities to create infrastructure. However, Jonathan pointed out that around 40% of community-managed water schemes break down. He posed the question:

These outcomes force us, as implementers, to consider how effective we have been supporting these committees. Is sufficient time and human resources invested building leadership capacity within village water committees so that issues such as cost recovery are thoroughly understood at the end of the project cycle?

Jonathan also called for CARE colleagues in South and Central America to share their experiences with the success of community managed schemes in this region.

Pedro Carrasco of CARE Ecuador responded that for several years the Latin American and Caribbean region have worked to strengthen local capacity through "Community Organizations providers of drinking Water and

Sanitation” (OCSAS). He explained that a partnership between CARE and the Avina Foundation created a water and sanitation training program with 10 modules that is based on the best existing experiences. The program was implemented successfully in 7 countries in 2013. Pedro offered a presentation of the program which can be viewed [here](#).

Lourdes Mindreau, coordinator of CARE Peru’s Water and Sanitation Programme, suggested that we limit the topics of analysis to gain a better depth of conversation surrounding community management of water schemes. She also stated her interest in learning about each country’s approach to water+, since there is much variation across the sector.

Abdul Wahed, Emergency Response and Preparedness Coordinator with CARE Bangladesh, brought the discussion to a different continent. He stated, *“in my experiences in this field, there are many successes as well as failure cases of community based water management schemes in Bangladesh.”* Abdul offered to collect examples of both scenarios in Bangladesh and share them with the sector.

Serge Lantagne, of CARE Honduras, offered another perspective from Latin America. He explained that, while water coverage is good, the problems in Central America stem mostly from water quality and quantity.

“To improve life cycle of water systems, CARE has been promoting a larger involvement of municipalities in regulating the sector (for example, water tariffs are determined by municipal bylaws). We have been promoting the creation of Community Water Board Associations at the municipal level to promote training for community members and to establish chlorine banks to easily get access to it.”

Serge also spoke about the alliances formed between CARE Honduras and other organizations such as CRS, Living Water, Save the Children, Water for People, World Vision, and IRC to promote the new concept of “Full Coverage Forever.”

Jonathan Annis’s final words on the subject offer his thoughts for moving forward with sustainable water+ programming.

“I suspect community management will continue to play a role in CARE’s rural water programming for the foreseeable future. The question is how we can catalyse and strengthen the external support for water committees so they are empowered to thrive and maintain services for the entire design life of the infrastructure? Can we look for opportunities to link communities together to create markets and economies of scale for maintenance services that favour the emergence of private sector participation?”

CARE has conducted research on community governance and the sustainability of water schemes. Read it [here](#).



NEW! Spanish and French language versions of 2013: A Year in Review, CARE's end-of-year Water+ Newsletter.

Como 2013 llega a su fin, *Noticias de CARE Water+: 2013 Resumen del año* ofrece una mirada fogosa e informativo a todo lo que hemos logrado este año. Lea la versión electrónica [aquí](#).

En 2013 tire à sa fin, *Nouvelles de CARE Water+: 2013 Revue de l'année* offre un regard vif et instructif à tout ce que nous avons accompli cette année. Lire la version électronique [ici](#).



GET TO KNOW: Solo Razafinjato, Urban Project Manager for CARE Madagascar

Describe what you do with CARE Madagascar.

I'm CARE's Urban Project Manager in Madagascar. CARE's urban project contributes to achieving CARE Madagascar's long-range strategy plan, as part of its Integrated Health Program. Since 2008, in partnership with Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), CARE's urban project has contributed to improving the living conditions of the population in the poor neighborhoods of the Urban Commune of Antananarivo. Project aims are to not only ensure improved and sustainable access to water and sanitation for the poorest but also to promote local governance.

How did you become interested in water issues?

In 2003, I was hired by CARE as a project engineer for monitoring and controlling the work construction of laundry and sanitary blocs and water kiosks (I am a civil engineer). In a few fokontany*, these water infrastructures were made by food and cash for work Labour Intensive system (HIMO in French). I began to understand that in urban areas, a population's access to WASH is very precarious, which is also true in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. Only 26% of the urban population has a private connection. The difficulty in supplying potable water is a major problem for most of the vulnerable households. Traveling long distances and waiting in long lines is part of their daily activities to get their supply of water.

*A fokontany, originally, was a traditional Malagasy village. It is now an administrative subdivision of Malagasy base. It includes either hamlets, villages, areas and neighborhoods.

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

The most interesting part is the process of involving beneficiaries in the whole process—from setting up the infrastructure (i.e. from conception), to construction, to the operation of the infrastructure. We also support Water User Associations to develop and implement maintenance and investment plans for expansion work. An example of such work is the construction of new water kiosks; for this, we provide capacity building.

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

Yes, I worked as a works controller for infrastructure construction. After that, I worked as the Coordinator of Environmental Health.

What do you feel are the largest challenges confronting the WASH sector in

Southern Africa in the next 5 years?

Open defecation.

What is your favorite regional dish/meal?

Rice with cassava leaf and pork, a typical Malagasy dish.

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

- ✓ Open defecation—Because it is one of the causes of the spread of germs that lead to waterborne disease, which is among the most frequent causes of infant mortality in Madagascar.
- 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



The WA-WASH intervention villages in the Upper West region of Ghana.

Photo credit: www.globalwaters.net

FEATURED PROGRAM: West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WA-WASH)

Project purpose and objectives:

The primary goal of the West African Water, Sanitation Hygiene Program ([WA-WASH](#)) is to increase – by building on and expanding past West African Water Initiative (WAWI) efforts in the region—sustainable access to safe water and sanitation, and improve hygiene in West Africa. The program aims to introduce innovative and low-cost water and sanitation technologies and promote adequate hygienic behaviors at community level; develop practical models of sustainable WASH service delivery; facilitate cooperation and create synergies between WA-WASH and other relevant USAID/West Africa programs and priorities in the region; and increase the capacity of national and regional institutions to replicate these approaches and models throughout the region.

This program profile covers the WA-WASH project based in the Lawra and Nandom districts in the Upper West region of Ghana.

Project partners:

The WA-WASH partners include:

- Partnership for Rural Development Action (PRUDA)
- Ghana Education Service (GES)
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA)
- Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit of Ghana Health Services
- Lawra and Nandom District Assemblies

Project challenges:

It is difficult to improve the willingness of people in rural areas to pay for



A woman looks down a well in Ghana.

water services. In addition, women could be a driving force for development activities in communities if environments are created to enable them participate effectively.

Project successes:

The Village, Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) platform has been used to successfully engage communities on various themes such as sanitation and hygiene campaigns, technology transfer, and women's empowerment. The VSLA model could serve as a means for addressing WASH financing challenges in rural communities if proper mechanisms are developed.

Special thanks to Issifu Adama, WA-WASH Project Manager with CARE Ghana, for providing this information. To learn more, [contact Issifu](#).

Featured WASH Technologies*



Tiger worms are used to sustainably and compactly deal with latrine waste in the Tiger Toilet innovation.

Tiger Toilet

USAID's Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) has awarded over \$170,000 for a field trial of the "Tiger Toilet," which uses composting worms like the Tiger Worm to sustainably manage solid waste in latrines.

According to DIV, the Tiger Toilet is linked to a normal pour flush system with a tank that contains the worms. When waste enters the tank, the solids are trapped at the top of the system to be consumed by worms and the liquid is filtered through a drainage layer. Trials have found that the worms reduce the solids in the system by over 80%.

The Tiger Toilet is set to be tested in India, Uganda and Myanmar.

[Read](#) more.

***CARE does not endorse or promote any particular technologies. This section is for informational purposes only.**

Other Updates

Lazos de Agua Quarterly From the Field

Read the latest Winter 2013 edition of Lazos de Agua, a quarterly newsletter published by Millenium Water Alliance and partners. The most recent newsletter provides snapshots of program successes in Latin America from WaterAid Nicaragua, Aguayuda, Living Water International, and CARE Guatemala.

[Read](#) the full newsletter in both English and Spanish.

For More Information

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