

West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (USAID WA-WASH)

MULTIPLE USE WATER SERVICES APPROACH OVERVIEW

Multiple use services (MUS) is a holistic, client oriented approach to water service delivery that provides water for domestic and priority productive activities. The rationale behind MUS is simple. Poor populations need water for a variety of essential uses ranging from drinking, hygiene, and sanitation to food production and income generation. Yet, existing approaches to water service delivery typically focus on providing water for a single-use—for example, drinking or irrigation. Unplanned uses of single-use systems often lead to sustainability problems and conflicts over water. The MUS approach takes people’s multiple domestic and productive water needs as the starting point to plan, finance, and manage integrated water services. By intentionally delivering water services to meet domestic and priority productive water needs, the growing body of evidence suggests that MUS results in improvements in health and livelihoods, while enhancing sustainability of water resources and services (Renwick et al, 2007). The range of appropriate options for increasing water access to individual households and communities under the MUS approach depends on both the characteristics of the area and social aspects of the community.



GOAL

The overall goal of the MUS component of the USAID WA-WASH program is to introduce economically and technically viable multiple use water services that enable poor rural households to achieve sustainable and equitable access to water and improvements in health, food security and income.



OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Identify promising locations for implementing MUS.
- ◆ Provide reliable access to multiple use water services that sustainably meets domestic and productive water needs.
- ◆ Improve health for poor rural households by providing access to safe drinking water and promoting improved hygiene practices at the household level.
- ◆ Increase annual incomes, enhance food security, and diversify livelihoods of poor rural households through locally appropriate

strategies that support and sustain incomes from productive water use activities, focusing on horticulture and livestock.

- ◆ Catalyze a supportive environment for MUS learning, replication and scale up through outreach, education and stakeholder learning workshops.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

