



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Issue 81 | December 7, 2012 | Focus on Water Kiosks

This issue contains recent studies and project information on water kiosks. Water kiosks are booths for the sale of tap water. Kiosks can be operated by employees of utilities, by self-employed operators under contract with utilities, or water committees consisting of volunteers. Kiosk operators may also sell health and other products at the kiosk to increase their income. A Safe Water Network report discusses problems with water quality and other factors, such as distance, that affected the success of its water kiosks in Ghana. A health study found that purchasing water from low-cost water kiosks is associated with a reduction in diarrhea risk similar to that found in much more expensive bottled water. Also included is information on current water kiosk projects from USAID/Ghana, Spring Health/India, and others.

Please let WASHplus know at any time if you have resources to share for future issues of WASHplus Weekly or if you have suggestions for future topics. An [archive](#) of past Weekly issues is available on the WASHplus website.

REPORTS/ARTICLES

- **Decentralized Safe Water Kiosks: Working Toward a Sustainable Model in Ghana**, 2012. C Nimako, Safe Water Network. ([Full text, pdf](#))

This initiative made significant progress in developing sustainable safe water provision models for rural and peri-urban markets in Ghana. It also made important findings regarding water quality and the effect of distance on water kiosk sales.

- **Delivering Basic Water and Electricity Services in Urban Slums: A Role for Small Scale Private Service Providers**, 2012. J Baker, World Bank. ([Full text, pdf](#))

Rapid urbanization has brought increased demand for basic infrastructure and services, particularly in low income marginal areas where traditional service providers do not always go. In some countries, small scale private service providers have stepped in with services ranging from clean water supply through piped systems or micro-hydropower schemes to mobile handcart vendors or water truckers. This paper analyzes the data from a survey of small-scale private service providers in Bangladesh,

Cambodia, Kenya, and the Philippines to better understand what is known about the providers and to explore their potential role and emerging policy issues for low income urban areas.

- **Does User Participation Lead to Sense of Ownership for Rural Water Systems? Evidence from Kenya.** *World Development*, 40(8) 2012. S Marks, Stanford University. ([Full text, pdf](#))

Despite broad acceptance of the idea that “sense of ownership” among users is critical to infrastructure sustainability in developing countries, little is known about what sense of ownership is, or its drivers. The author presents a novel measure of sense of ownership for piped water systems using empirical data collected from 1,140 households in 50 rural Kenyan villages. The study found that some, but not all, types of participation enhance community members’ sense of ownership for rural water projects.

- **Managing Communal Water Kiosks in Malawi: Experiences in Water Supply Management in Poor Urban Settlements in Lilongwe,** 2012. WaterAid. ([Full text](#))

If a public/private water utility is going to be efficient and effective in providing water to the urban poor, it must have a dedicated unit to address issues that often go unattended by the utility company, especially the revenue collection and projects departments. Since the establishment of the Kiosk Management Unit, Lilongwe Water Board has been able to improve its revenue collection and more importantly its understanding of the challenges in providing water to low income areas.

- **Measuring Water Collection Times in Kenyan Informal Settlements,** n.d. J Davis, University of California, Santa Cruz. ([Full text, pdf](#))

This paper uses GPS loggers and interviews to measure the time taken to collect water in two Kenyan informal settlements. The time devoted to water collection is widely believed to prevent women and girls, who do most of this work, from undertaking more creative tasks, including income generation and education.

- **Relationship between Use of Water from Community-Scale Water Treatment Refill Kiosks and Childhood Diarrhea in Jakarta.** *Amer Jnl Trop Med Hyg*, Nov 2012. L Sima. ([Full text, pdf](#))

In developing countries, safe piped drinking water is generally unavailable, and bottled water is unaffordable for most people. Purchasing drinking water from community-scale decentralized water treatment and refill is becoming a common alternative. This study investigates the association between diarrhea risk and community-scale water treatment and refill kiosks.

- **Sustainable Water Services and the Poor in Small Towns,** 2012. SNV. ([Full text, pdf](#))

This practice brief shares experiences from SNV support of small town water companies

in several African countries.

- **Urban Water and Sanitation Poverty in Tanzania: Evidence from the Field and Recommendations for Successful Combat Strategies**, 2012. D Pauschert, GIZ. ([Full text, pdf](#))

As Tanzania has not only one of the highest birth rates, but also one of the highest urbanization rates in the sub-Saharan Africa (5–6 percent), urban water and sanitation poverty is likely to become worse for the majority of the population. This paper gives an overview of data collected through a recent baseline survey in Tanzania and makes recommendations for combating urban water and sanitation poverty based on lessons learned from years of GIZ work in the country.

- **Using Water Kiosk Revenues to Cross-Finance Environmental Hygiene: Tana's RF2 Model**, 2011. Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor. ([Full text](#))

In the Madagascan capital Antananarivo (Tana), community groups are using revenues from water kiosks and other local sources to finance a drainage canal cleaning program, critical to public health.

- **The Wandiege Community Water Supply Project (Kisumu, Kenya): From Self-Help Group to Water Company**, 2012. African Studies Centre. ([Full text, pdf](#))

The privately run water kiosks are supposed to achieve one of the project's objectives of alleviating poverty in the community through income-generating activities. These kiosks are basically a water point and a "structure" where people come to buy water. Some of them have a storage tank for water used when there is no running water from the pipe.

BLOGS/WEBSITES/VIDEOS

- **USAID Ghana WASH Project-Water Kiosks.** ([Blog post](#))

In five peri-urban communities, the Ghana WASH Project is working alongside WaterHealth International to provide surface water kiosks to increase access to safe water sources. This team effort to provide access to safe, potable water access is thanks to a larger partnership between USAID and The Coca-Cola Company, known as the Water and Development Alliance (WADA).

- **Case Study: Water Kiosks in Kenya**, 2012. PATH. ([Link](#))

The success of this project was largely attributed to initial market research that led to a thorough understanding of the water treatment market, despite having virtually no budget for market research activities.

- **Designing Scalable Water and Hygiene Businesses**, 2012. IDEO.org. ([Link](#))

While still in Nairobi, and building on experience from its first water kiosk prototype, the IDEO.org team sat down to figure out how its business model might really work. For a second prototype, IDEO.org needed to learn if the individual models from its first

prototype could work together as parts of a larger business.

- **Spring Health: Safe Drinking Water Kiosks in Rural India.** ([Website](#))
Spring Health is bringing safe drinking water to hard-to-reach communities in northeast India through its innovative kiosk model. Spring Health employees travel by motorcycle to rural villages to purify water tanks with liquid chlorine. The purified drinking water is then sold directly to consumers by local shop owners.
- **WaterCan in Uganda: George Yap at Water Kiosk in Kampala Slums, 2012.** ([Video](#))
These kiosks, supported by WaterCan, are providing hundreds of citizens access to clean water for an affordable rate, a huge savings over the illegal and unsafe water sources presently used by the majority of slum dwellers.
- **Zambia: Water Kiosks Make Clean, Safe Water Readily Available.** World Bank. ([Video](#))
With assistance from the World Bank, Lusaka Water Company has extended services to people in peri-urban areas by constructing 66 water kiosks.

Each WASHplus Weekly highlights topics such as Urban WASH, Indoor Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Hand Washing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus knowledge resources specialist, at dacampbell@fhi360.org.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, creates supportive environments for healthy households and communities by delivering high-impact interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP). WASHplus uses proven, at-scale interventions to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit www.washplus.org or email: contact@washplus.org.

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