

**WATER INTEGRITY NETWORK NEWSLETTER**  
April 2007

<http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net>

**1. FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

Dear reader:

In this edition of the WIN Newsletter we focus on the lack of integrity in sanitation. Sanitation suffers from at least two kinds of bad management. The first such instance is that the issue of sanitation does not get the attention it deserves based on its importance for the wellbeing of people. Even though poor sanitation and drainage kills more than 8000 children a day (!) through diarrhoea and malaria alone, it is still low in demand. A reason, beyond it often being a taboo, is that sanitation is more of a public good than water supply. This is because the health benefits of sanitation occur principally on community level and being preventive, they are also less visible (it is hard to notice the bout of diarrhoea you didn't get). Of course, proper sanitation also provides benefits to the individual user, for example convenience, privacy and dignity, but for poor women and men these are often luxuries that they don't afford. One effect of the lack of popular interest in sanitation is that it also translates into low political capital, which makes the "sanitation champions" few and far between. To compound the problem, sanitation usually lacks an institutional home at national level. The responsibility for sanitation is normally shared between several ministries and agencies and hence tend to be forgotten by all of them. The lack of leadership has resulted in a kind of policy vacuum for sanitation and a lack of prioritization in national and local budgets.

In well-intentioned efforts to remedy the enormous human suffering due to insufficient sanitation, the donor community have been pushing for more focus and higher allocations, without paying sufficient attention to the underlying lack of demand. The result is often supply driven initiatives with reluctant involvement by national and local leaders and by the intended users. One example is the 3.4 million € spent on building 9000 school latrines in Nepal, out of which barely 15% are used!

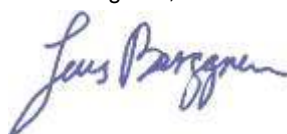
The combination of large, but still insufficient, amounts of money being spent without proper attention is a sure recipe for mismanagement and corruption. A very worrying trend, which can be the result of the often disappointing outcomes of projects, programmes and global initiatives partly due to the above, is that development assistance to the water and sanitation sector has fallen over the last decade and it now receives less than 5% of the total. Corruption thrives where we are not paying attention!

This leads to the other form of mismanagement - the lack of integrity in the provision of services. This can, for example, be noticed in shoddy work in latrine construction. There are reports of school latrines caving in already after a couple weeks of operation, exposing the pupils to literally deep sh\*t!

The combination of these two forms of poor governance is a very potent poison that significantly reduces our already slim chance of reaching the sanitation Millennium Development Goals and saving some of the 8000 children's lives lost every day.

In this newsletter we try to give some examples of how these problems can be tackled. However, an additional effect of not paying attention to sanitation is that we have not learned enough. We are, as always, delighted to hear your ideas and experiences on how corruption in this and other water related fields can be cured.

Best regards,



Jens Berggren  
Programme Manager

---

## 2. NEWS

### **Centre for Science and Environment: Book Release on Sanitation in India**

The [Centre for Science and Environment](#) (CSE) just released its latest book, *Sewage Canal: How To Clean the Yamuna*. It analyzes the strategies adopted to clean up the Yamuna, one of India's holiest and dirtiest rivers. Accompanying the book is a film on water and excreta, *Faecal attraction: Political economy of defecation*.

[Read more](#)

### **Stockholm International Water Institute: New vacancy**

A new Water Project Officer position is available at the UNDP Water Governance Facility at [SIWI](#), the application deadline is April 30.

[Read more](#)

### **Nepal: only 15 per cent of school toilets used**

Hardly 15 per cent of the toilets built in 9,000 schools in Nepal with assistance from donor agencies are in use, as stated by the Department of Education. About Rs. 300 million (EUR 3.37 million) has been spent on construction of these toilets

[Read more](#)

### **Launch of new webportal: Water Information System for Europe (WISE)**

The Water Information System for Europe – or WISE – was launched on World Water Day, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. It compiles data and information collected at the EU level by various institutions and bodies that either has not been previously available, or which has been fragmented among many locations.

[Go to the website](#)

- If you would like your information in the WIN newsletter, please send an email to the [WIN](#)

---

## 3. WIN ACTIVITIES

### **WIN Workplan 2007 approved!**

The WIN workplan for 2007 was approved by the ISC and is now accessible for all WIN members on the homepage. This document sets out the steps to be taken by the WIN Secretariat during 2007. All of our actions aim to promote integrity and coalition-building at all levels between actors from civil society, private and public sectors, media and governments in the water sector. In so doing, advocacy is a priority activity of the WIN. The main single event for the first years of the network is the publication and launch of the [Global Corruption Report](#) 2008, focusing on water. The GCR will put the topic of corruption on many groups' agendas. The book, however, is just one component of our initiative to foster integrity in the sector. WIN's plans includes workshops to stimulate local action, an enhanced information and communication system to facilitate member exchange, and the development of surveys and further tools to cure corruption in the water sector. In this sense, the GCR 2008 should also be seen as a process to engage other actors in this field to start pushing for change.

### **Building WIN across regions**

During 2007, WIN aim to co-organise and support a series of regional workshops to stimulate local actions in tackling corruption in the water sector. These are pencilled in for Burkina Faso (for Francophone West Africa) in July, Ghana (for Anglophone West Africa) in September, Bangladesh (South Asia) in October, Thailand (East Asia) and Colombia in November.

Workshops will focus on sharing existing experiences of the current status of anti-corruption activities, constraints and opportunities in these regions, building new partnerships between water (covering water supply for all uses, sanitation, water resources etc) and anti-corruption professionals, and stimulating ideas for joint regional and country-level activities.

Dates and further information will be posted shortly on the [WIN website](#).

## 4. TALES OF CORRUPTION

This section is an open space to share experiences on corruption related to water. This month, we feature a story from the [Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative](#). It shows how people in India are using their right to access government information to fight corrupt practices relating to water provision. India's Right to Information Act (RTI) gives citizens a general right of access to all records held by public authorities.

### **Access to information restores people's right to water in Keolari**

*(...) Keolari village, situated in Katni district, Madhya Pradesh in India, is home to about 2,500 people. Munnalal Patel is an elected Pancha (member) of the Keolari gram panchayat (elected local self governing body at the village level). His father had donated an open well to the panchayat in 1997 hoping that it would be maintained by them for people's use. This well (...) is one of the only two sources of potable water available within Keolari. (...) Except for a handful of rich families which own private tube wells on their property, most of the residents of Keolari depend on the well located in the middle of the village. In December last year (2006) Munnalal began constructing a house on a small plot of land adjacent to this public well (...) constructed a boundary wall around the well in a bid to claim it for himself. Villagers whose access to the well was cut off tried to reason with Munnalal, in vain. ...*

[Read the rest of the story...](#)

- Do you have a story of how corruption impacts on the water sector? Please send it to the [WIN](#).

## 5. DOCUMENTS & WEB RESOURCES

In this section you will find research papers and other documents on lack of transparency related to sanitation.

### **Strengthening Capacity for Local WASH Governance**

By IRC and UNESCO-IHE, briefing note, March 2007

This briefing note describes methods to help strengthen intermediate level organisations in the WASH sector, to improve sustainable water and sanitation services for communities. It is a summary of key points from discussions held during the symposium, *Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation: Strengthening Capacity for Local Governance*, which was organised by IRC and UNESCO-IHE in Delft, the Netherlands in September last year.

[Download the document](#)

### **Study on water quality information in Brazil and the challenges to guarantee transparency in the initiatives**

By Lilia Diniz

Brazil 's federal government has earmarked nearly 15 billion Euros (40 billion reais) to invest in sanitation between 2007 and 2010 for sewerage treatment and diffuse pollution reduction through better urban planning. The study and paper gives a scenario of Brazil's water policy challenges and explains how the allocating these funds can succeed only if economic and transparent instruments including a strategic plan to the implementation of water targets with precise definitions and efficient collection of water tariffs and charges are implemented.

You will find the study in [Portuguese](#) and the paper in English on the [WIN website](#).

### **Toilet wars: urban sanitation services and the politics of public-private partnerships in Ghana.**

By Ayee, J/ Crook, R (2003). Working paper no. 213 from the Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK

This paper examines the impact of the new forms of partnerships between public authorities and private/citizen-based organisations on urban environmental sanitation in Accra and Kumasi, Ghana. It reveals how access to toilets consistently have been poorly managed and have been the source of local political conflicts, due to the politics of patronage and the failure of regulation. The paper provides recommendations to set up reasonable sanitation facilities.

[Download the document](#)

### **Preventing Corruption in a Sanitation Programme in India – Process and Tools**

Kochurani Mathew from the Socio-Economic Units Foundation in Kerala, India

This presentation describes how the Socio-Economic Units Foundation, a non-profit organization, worked with the local government to carry out a sanitation programme serving poor families in Kerala, southern India. The case study shows how to prevent corruption by applying some existing tools to the community-based household sanitation programme. The corresponding table lists the tools used to ensure transparency and prevent corruption.

[Download the document](#)

### **WASH Helpdesk**

For an extensive account of issues of transparency in sanitation, please visit the WASH Helpdesk, a water and sanitation blog managed by IRC.

[Read more](#)

- Please send your papers to the [WIN](#) to publish on our website or include in the WIN newsletter!

## **6. EVENTS**

### **Session: Governance of Natural Resources**

*Leipzig, Germany, 09 May 07*

Session on integrated governance concepts of natural resources, including water at the 4th BMBF Forum for Sustainability.

[Read more](#)

### **International Conference: Collaborating in Africa: New approaches in Water Sector**

*Gatineau, (Québec), Canada, 24 May 07 - 25 May 07*

This conference is jointly organized by the Institute of the Environment of the University of Ottawa and the Health and Water Africa Foundation, with the collaboration of the National Institute of Scientific Research (INRS-ETE), and TéléScience.

[Read more](#)

### **AGUASAN Workshop 23 (2007): "Opportunities and Challenges for the Water and Sanitation Sector in a Decentralized Context"**

*Gwatt, Switzerland, 18 Jun 07 - 22 Jun 07*

A workshop for project field staff, desk officers, researchers, consultants, other sector specialists and wider development practitioners organized by the Swiss Ressource Centre and Consultancies for Development.

[Read more](#)

### **Latin America Regional Sanitation Conference**

*Cali, Colombia, 19 Nov 07 - 26 Nov 07*

One of a series of regional sanitation conferences in support of the 2008 [International Year of Sanitation](#)

- Add your event to the WIN events database by sending an email to the [WIN!](#)

## **7. TOOLS**

### **Improved transparency and service using site selection as a tool**

**Kathy Shordt : IRC (International Water and Sanitation Centre)**

One important strategy to improve transparency and reduce corruption can be site selection and monitoring, which are central to ensuring coverage while controlling cost. Site selection refers to identifying the physical location of water points, which should be done transparently, for example, with user and community involvement. Monitoring usually involves some type of mapping of existing water points.

[Download the document](#)

---

## 8. MASTHEAD

The Water Integrity Network newsletter is a regular electronic publication of the Water Integrity Network (WIN). It is produced by the WIN Secretariat.

The Water Integrity Network newsletter is the property of the Water Integrity Network or its content suppliers, and is protected by German, United States, and international copyright laws. The Water Integrity Network newsletter may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published or broadcast for commercial purposes without the prior written permission of the Water Integrity Network or, in the case of third-party materials, the owner of that content. Requests for such permission should be made to [info@waterintegritynetwork.net](mailto:info@waterintegritynetwork.net). The Water Integrity Network accepts no responsibility for opinions expressed in interviews or for the information provided through external weblinks.

Jens Berggren  
Programme Manager  
Water Integrity Network  
Phone: +49-30-343 820413  
Email: [info@waterintegritynetwork.net](mailto:info@waterintegritynetwork.net)

Water Integrity Network  
c/o Transparency International- International Secretariat  
Alt-Moabit 96  
10559 Berlin, Germany  
Phone: +49-30-343 820413  
Fax: +49-30-3470 3912  
Email: [info@waterintegritynetwork.net](mailto:info@waterintegritynetwork.net)  
Web: [www.waterintegritynetwork.net](http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net)

**How to subscribe/unsubscribe:** To subscribe or unsubscribe to the WIN newsletter, please send an email to [info@waterintegritynetwork.org](mailto:info@waterintegritynetwork.org) and write "Subscribe newsletter" or "Unsubscribe newsletter" in the subject title.

**How to contribute:** We strongly encourage all WIN members to contribute to our newsletter in the form of Event Announcements, Publications/Reports, Call for papers, Call for Actions, as well as their own experiences of corruption in the water sector. Please send all contributions to [info@waterintegritynetwork.org](mailto:info@waterintegritynetwork.org).