



## POLICY & PRACTICE BRIEF

### Empowering Giyani

# SUSTAINABLE WATER SOLUTIONS FOR RURAL AREAS

**Discover how small-scale multiple use water (SS MUS) systems can transform life in rural Giyani. Learn about the key components and community-driven strategies that ensure clean water access for drinking, farming, and hygiene, while supporting local development and sustainability.**

In rural villages such as Giyani, where water scarcity and access challenges are common, small-scale multiple use systems for water are innovative solutions. These systems are tailored to the unique needs of a community and offer sustainable access to clean water for various purposes, from drinking to domestic use to agriculture and business development.

#### **KEY COMPONENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR A VILLAGE SS MUS SYSTEM:**

**Community Engagement** | The journey begins with active participation from the local community. Understanding village water needs, cultural practices, and preferences is important for system success.

**Water Sources** | Identify reliable water sources like boreholes, wells, or streams. Assess water quality and quantity to ensure a dependable supply.

**Water Treatment and Storage** | Implement treatment methods such as filtration and solar powered disinfection to guarantee safe water. Adequate storage facilities like tanks or reservoirs are essential for meeting needs.

**Distribution Infrastructure** | Develop a well-planned distribution network to reach every corner of the village, including communal water points for easy access. Enforce rules and standards for accessing the network.

**Domestic Use** | Allocate water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene, and promote water saving practices.

**Agriculture** | Support small-scale farming with water allocation and efficient irrigation techniques.

**Livestock** | Ensure livestock access to water through designated points, improving animal health and productivity.

**Sanitation** | Implement improved sanitation facilities like pit latrines far from boreholes, communal toilets (churches and schools)... essential for water quality.

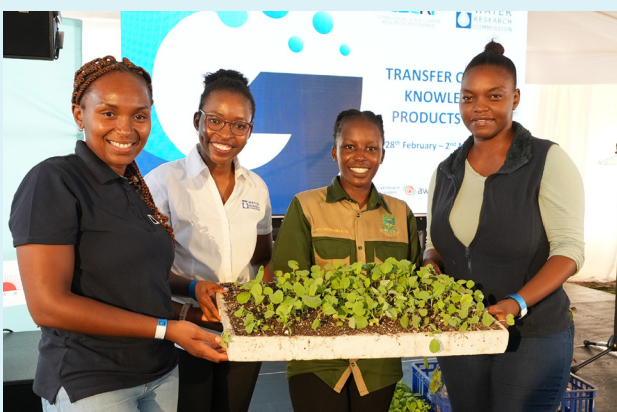
**Community Training** | Conduct awareness programs on water management and hygiene to empower residents.

**Maintenance and Sustainability** | Establish a maintenance plan for long-term system sustainability. Train local technicians or community members for routine upkeep.

**Water User Committees** | Form committees to oversee system management and maintenance, including fee collection.

**Monitoring and Evaluation** | Continuously assess water quality and quantity, adjusting as needed.

**Integration with Development Projects** | Combine water systems with broader rural development initiatives for holistic community advancement.



The Giyani Local Scale Climate Resilience Programme (GLSCR) is an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing water utilization, building community resilience, and promoting sustainable economic growth in the Giyani region. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative solutions, community engagement, and rigorous monitoring, the program strives to address the challenges posed by climate change and ensure a more resilient and prosperous future for local communities.

By adopting a holistic and inclusive approach, the GLSCR serves as a model for other regions grappling with climate-related water challenges, contributing to broader global efforts toward a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

For a successful small-scale multiple use water system in Giyani:

## Prioritize Community Involvement

Engage the local community from the beginning, ensuring their needs and preferences shape the system's design and operation.

## Ensure Reliable Water Sources

Thoroughly evaluate and maintain water sources to guarantee a consistent supply of clean water.

## Encourage Sustainability

Develop a maintenance plan and involve the community in its execution, ensuring the system remains functional for years to come.

## Promote Education

Empower residents with knowledge about water management, hygiene, and sanitation to maximize the system's benefits.

## Monitor and Adapt

Continuously monitor water quality and usage, making adjustments as necessary to meet evolving needs.

## Integrate for Prosperity

Explore opportunities to integrate the water system with broader development projects, encouraging economic growth and well-being in the community.

Implementing these recommendations in Giyani can result in a resilient and community-driven water system that enhances the quality of life for residents and supports sustainable development.



### Water Research Commission

Virginia Molose – virginiam@wrc.org.za  
www.wrc.org.za

### Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD)

Derick du Toit – derick@award.org.za

### Tsogang Water and Sanitation

Kenny Phasha – kennyphasha@tsogang.org

### University of Western Cape

Prof Nebo Jovanovic – njovanovic@uwc.ac.za

WWW.WRC.ORG.ZA