

Developing and implementing an Equitable Access Action Plan

Experience in Armenia

5TH MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON EQUITABLE ACCESS

Paris, France 26-27 June 2018,

Armine Arushanyan, State Committee of Water Economy
of the RA

Rationale for developing an equitable access action plan

- * The aim of developing an Action Plan was to establish a list of measures/activities directed at providing equitable access to water and sanitation, as well as the evaluation criteria, responsible authorities, partners and the sources of funding.

Recommendation based on self assessment

Section	Recommendations
Steering governance frameworks to deliver equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing in more detail the legislation, identifying the positive and negative aspects, drawing a comparison between the Score-card components and laws to identify legislative gaps in order to contribute to the solution of the problems Inclusion of the section on “Access to water supply and sanitation” by beneficiary ministries, as well as provision of separate information in reports about the water supply and sanitation activities and the expenditure on water supply and sanitation Developing an action plan on ensuring access to water supply and sanitation to be approved by the government and beneficiary ministries
Reducing geographical disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collecting data on the current situation of communities not serviced by specialized water supply and sanitation companies Improving sanitation services with a special focus on regional disparities Assessing motivations for inclusion of around 570 communities not serviced by specialized water supply and sanitation companies into the area serviced by water companies Developing recommendations on improvement of access to water supply and sanitation both for serviced and non-serviced communities Developing investment projects and, if possible, implementing them according to the priorities in the communities where water is fetched or the distribution network is lacking or there is no sewage system
Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enshrining legally the right of vulnerable groups to water supply and sanitation in the developed sector policy Implementing a pilot project in accordance with the Score-card components, such as, for example, identifying the features of separate vulnerable groups due to the geographical location Conducting engineering and hydrological studies with a view to providing access to water supply from neighborhoods where access to water supply is available Assessing the situation with respect to persons living in housing without water supply and sanitation and developing an improvement project proposal Raising public awareness on the human right to access to water supply and sanitation
Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting a study on options to address affordability concerns through tariffs

Process: developing an Equitable Access Action Plan

- * Lead agency(ies): State Committee of Water Economy of the RA Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources and Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment NGO (AWHHE).
- * Contributing agencies and stakeholders: RA Ministry of Health, RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, RA Ministry of Education and Science, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, State Committee on Urban Development under the RA Government; Private sector, NGOs, Independent Experts.
- * Scale of the Action Plan: National and Regional.
- * Action Plan development timeframe: 01.12.2016- 01.05.2017

Main features of the Equitable Access Action Plan

Priority areas of actions

- ✓ *improvement of equitable access to water and sanitation management (financing and legal regulations);*
- ✓ *reduction of geographic disparities in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation;*
- ✓ *provision of equitable access to water and sanitation for marginalized and vulnerable groups.*

Priority measures of the Action Plan

Section 1. Efficient management to ensure equitable access to water supply and sanitation /legal and financial/

- ***Analysis of the water legislative framework and identification of legislative barriers to ensure equitable access on water and sanitation.***
- ***Development of a draft concept defining the responsibilities for the provision of equitable access to water and sanitation.***
- ***Organization of a Roundtable Discussion to provide for the requirements of the Concept Note of equitable access to water and sanitation.***
- ***Multi-disciplinary assessment on the concept on equitable access to water and sanitation by different stakeholders.***
- ***Inclusion of the “Access to Water Supply and Sanitation” Section (the water supply and sanitation activities and the finances spent on water supply and sanitation) in the annual reports of responsible authorities.***
- ***Assessment of the financial and logistical resources necessary for ensuring the implementation of the concept on equitable access to water and sanitation.***

Priority measures of the Action Plan

Section 2. Reducing geographic disparities in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation

- ***Compilation and analysis of information about the current situation in the communities not serviced by a specialized water and sanitation company, creation of a database.***
- ***Development of a plan and timetable of activities to reduce geographical disparities in equitable access to water and sanitation based on paragraph 6.4. of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.***
- ***Inclusion of the communities not serviced by a water company in the development and investment programs of the water company.***

Priority measures of the Action Plan

Section 3 Provision of equitable access to water and sanitation for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

- ***Inclusion of the criteria related to the provision of equitable access to water and sanitation (including the reduction of geographical disparities and provision of equitable access to water and sanitation for vulnerable and marginalized groups) in the implementation of existing and planned development, investment, urban development programs, and programs aimed at improving educational conditions.***
- ***Compilation of information on equitable access to water and sanitation for vulnerable and marginalized groups and database creation***
- ***Assessment of the impact of current water and sanitation tariffs on vulnerable and marginalized groups.***
- ***Organization of Roundtable discussion for the development of a tariff compensation mechanism for ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation for vulnerable and marginalized groups***

Responsible authorities

Responsible authorities:

State Committee of Water Economy of the RA Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources; NGOs;

Stakeholders:

RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs; RA Ministry of Health; RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development; RA Ministry of Economic Development and Investment; RA Ministry of Finance; RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs , RA Ministry of Justice; RA Ministry of Education and Science; State Committee on Urban Development under the RA Government; Private sector, Water Company “Veolia Djur” CJSC ; NGOs.

Snapshot of the Action Plan

Action Plan for 2018-2020 on Provision of Equitable Access to Water Supply and Sanitation in Armenia

Measures/ Actions	Expected outcome	Performance criterion	Term	Coordinating/ Responsible authority	Partner	Source of funding	Budget estimate
Section 1. Efficient management to ensure equitable access to water supply and sanitation							
<i>1.1 Legal and policy frameworks for effective implementation of the provision of equitable access to water supply and sanitation</i>							
Analysis of the water legislative framework and identification of legislative barriers to ensure equitable access and sanitation	Legislative reforms on equitable access to water and sanitation	A package of legislative reform proposals	01.05.2018	State Committee of Water Economy of the RA Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources	RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs; RA Ministry of Health; RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development; State Committee on Urban Development under the RA Government; RA Ministry of Justice; RA Ministry of Education and Science; RA Ministry of Nature Protection; private sector	International organizations; RA Government: in kind contribution	AMD 25.0 mln

Lesson learn from the process

Process



- ❖ The multi-stakeholder approach and teamwork gives the opportunity to see problem from the different angles and have more diverse suggestions for problem solving;
- ❖ It increases access to necessary information;
- ❖ Reduces the duplication of programs and suggestions;
- ❖ Supports awareness on water and sanitation issues among different stakeholders.



- ❖ Not all of stakeholders see themselves as part of the water and sanitation equity issue;
- ❖ The shared responsibility sometimes brings to Unequal Participation of the stakeholders;
- ❖ The process of discussion and consensus takes longer.

Adoption, communication and next steps

- * The Action Plan was first communicated and circulated on April 7, 2017
- * The public consultation meeting was convened on the 12th of May 2017,
- * Final approval came on August 4, 2017 with the Order N 130-A of the Chairman of State Committee of Water Economy.

AKNOLEGMENTS

The drafting and adoption of the Action Plan would not be possible without our National Expert Group, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment NGO and international consultants:

Chantal Demilecamps (UNECE, Secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health) and

Roberto Martin-Hurtado (UNECE expert).

Progress in implementation of the Action Plan

With support of UNECE secretariat, Armenia starts to develop the measures/actions according to the Action Plan for 2018-2020 on Provision of Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation in Armenia.

Now we are in a process of analysing legislative framework and identifying legislative barriers to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation (first action of the Action Plan). Later we will develop a package of legislative reform proposals.



Thank you for your attention.