

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Project title	Strengthening Governments' and water operators' capacity to ensure equity of access to water and sanitation in countries with economies in transition in the Economic Commission for Europe region, with a particular focus on small-scale water supplies and sanitation in rural areas.
DA project code	14/15AF / 3028-ROA-288-9
Executing entity	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Co-operating Agency within the UN system: World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe)
Reporting period	January – December 2016
Implementation rate	44.5%
Important issues	

1. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

During the reporting period, the progress was made to strengthen capacities of national governments and other stakeholders to develop policies on equitable access to water and sanitation, and address specific challenges of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems in national and local development policies by supporting capacity development activities.

More specifically, implemented activities contributed to supporting policy processes to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation. The assessments of the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation were finalized in Armenia (July 2016) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (January 2016). Both countries are currently in the process of developing an equitable access action plan to address the identified gaps in access to water and sanitation to be finalized by summer 2017. Actions to improve access were included in the 2016-2025 National Program for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova: the further development of the legal and institutional framework for equitable access to water and sanitation for vulnerable and marginalized groups; the creation of a Solidarity Fund for the Water Supply and Sanitation sector. An Action Plan to support the Roma population in the Republic of Moldova was adopted, with the objective of connecting 100% of households of the Roma population to water supply system by 2020.

In addition, a regional workshop (Geneva, 21-22 March 2016) facilitated exchange of experiences in the region (17 countries participated, in particular 12¹ out of the 13 project beneficiary countries). It also enabled the creation of "twinings" between countries having already advanced in the reflection on possible policies to improve equity and countries envisaging to start an assessment of the situation (for example Ukraine-Armenia, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia-Serbia, Armenia-Bulgaria etc). A regional workshop on reporting (Geneva, 8-9 March 2016) contributed to the quality of national summary reports, prepared by countries, for the third reporting exercise under the Protocol on Water and Health in 2016. This reporting exercise showed concrete advances in improving the percentage of population having access to improved drinking water services and sanitation services in rural areas in several countries, therefore decreasing the difference in the level of access to services between rural and urban population. For example, in the Republic of Moldova, population with access to improved drinking water supply increased from 62% in 2012 to 86% in 2015, with a larger increase in rural areas (31% to 81%).

¹ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Regarding improving small-scale water supplies and sanitation, guidance documents were developed, national capacity building activities were organized, and the evidence based supporting targeted policymaking was strengthened:

- In Serbia, a nationally representative rapid assessment of the situation of small-scale water supply systems in rural areas was undertaken to develop a systematic baseline analysis, support national target setting under the Protocol on Water and Health, and inform further policy making and improvement interventions in rural water supply.
- In Albania, a national workshop (Tirana, 28-29 September 2016), convening multiple sector sharing responsibility in rural water supply and sanitation, supported the development of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and contributed to building capacities towards improving management and public health surveillance of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems.
- Two guidance documents on small-scale water supply and sanitation were published in 2016. [“Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems. Tools and good practices from the pan-European Region”](#) aims to support effective policy action and promote good practices for creating an enabling environment in which to improve the situation of small-scale systems and introduces a variety of tools available to policy-makers. [“Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region. Results of a survey conducted under the Protocol on Water and Health”](#) aims to improve the evidence base on small-scale water supplies and to gain a better overview of the status quo throughout the Region.

Remaining project activities will be implemented in 2017.

2. REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

Table 1 – Review of Performance Indicators

Expected Accomplishment	Indicator of achievement at the start of the project (T0)	Indicator of achievement at the time period when the project is being reviewed (T1) ²	Comments
<p>EA1 Strengthened capacity of national and local authorities in countries with economies in transition in the ECE region to develop innovative policies and measures aimed at providing equitable access to water and sanitation building on the Protocol on Water and Health.</p>	<p>IA1.1 Increased number of policies and measures, at national and local levels, to ensure equity of access to clean and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation</p>	<p>During the reporting period, further progress was made to increase the number of policies and measures at national and local levels to ensure equality of access to clean and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation in 3 countries. In the Republic of Moldova, a national programme and a specific action plan were adopted to increase equitable access. In Armenia and</p>	<p>The regional workshop “Achieving equitable access to water and sanitation: from assessment to action” (Geneva, 21-22 March 2016) made it possible for countries to exchange experiences and discuss possible ways to define actions and adopt measures to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation.</p> <p>In the Republic of Moldova, the 2016-2025 National Program for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health was adopted. It</p>

² Projects in their first year of implementation are exempt from providing information in this column if it is difficult to provide estimates due to the projects short implementation period.

		<p>the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, recommendations were issued on actions to be taken to increase equitable access.</p> <p>The project supported progress in recognition of equitable access to water and sanitation in the formulation of national policies and strategies in five countries since the inception of the project (Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Between 2014 and 2016, three new policies and measures were adopted. Two are under development.</p>	<p>includes several actions to increase equitable access to water and sanitation: one objective is to further develop the legal and institutional framework for equitable access to water and sanitation for vulnerable and marginalized groups; a Solidarity Fund for the Water Supply and Sanitation sector will be created. In addition, an Action Plan to support the Roma population in the Republic of Moldova was adopted, with the objective of connecting 100% of households of the Roma population to water supply system by 2020.</p> <p>In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Armenia, several possible measures were identified to increase equitable access as outcomes of the equitable access self-assessment exercises during the two national workshops organized in the countries (respectively in January 2016 and July 2016). In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, it was decided to develop 3 local equitable access action plans to address the identified challenges, such as the need to set standards for menstrual hygiene management for toilets in health, educational and religious facilities, or the need to improve access to water and sanitation services for the Roma population and poor people living in informal settlement in the municipality of Shuto Orizari (Skopje). In Armenia, it was agreed upon to develop a national equitable access action plan aiming to</p>
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			reduce geographical disparities in access and to ensure access for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
	<p>IA1.2 Increased number of countries reporting on progress in ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health.</p>	<p>In 2016, 8 out of the 13 eligible countries under the project reported on progress in ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation under the Protocol on Water (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Serbia, and Ukraine).</p> <p>The same countries had reported in 2013, but the quality of reports (accuracy of data provided, analysis of trends, improvements and challenges) has notably increased between the second and third reporting cycle.</p>	<p>In 2016, all Parties to the Protocol and 6 other States reported on progress in implementing the Protocol in the framework of the third reporting cycle to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 14-16 November 2016).</p> <p>The regional workshop on collecting good practices on target setting and reporting (Geneva, 8 - 9 March 2016) facilitated the exchange, between countries, of experiences on success stories, challenges, and diverse approaches to reporting under the Protocol.</p> <p>The submitted triennial summary reports highlighted progress towards access to drinking water and sanitation, particularly, the progress in the reduction of disparities between urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Data collected in Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Azerbaijan, through the assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation based on the Score-card, informed the filling of the national summary reports in those countries.</p> <p>Few countries focused on other aspects of equity. For example, Serbia reported on progress towards assessment of needs and the related cost of investment</p>

			<p>required for access to drinking water in schools and preschool facilities. On the other hand, the Republic of Moldova reported on progress towards the target set on developing small-scale sanitation systems, such as Ecosan toilets, constructed wetlands and septic tanks in rural areas.</p> <p>For the future fourth reporting cycle under the Protocol, a new template for summary reports, in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol, adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties, will be used. The new reporting template includes a new part to allow Parties to report achievements in priority thematic areas of work under the Protocol's work plan, including equitable access to water and sanitation.</p>
<p>EA2 Strengthened capacity of national and local authorities, as well as water operators, in countries with economies in transition in the ECE region to address the challenges of small-scale water supplies and sanitation in national and local development policies.</p>	<p>IA2.1 Increased number of policies and strategies formulated to provide safe drinking water and sanitation in rural areas through small-scale water supply and sanitation systems</p>	<p>The project supported progress in recognition of small-scale water supplies in rural areas in the formulation of respective national policies and strategies in five countries since the inception of the project (Albania, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).</p>	<p>Please refer to the annual progress report for 2015 regarding progress in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.</p> <p>In the current reporting period, Serbia implemented a systematic assessment of the prevailing conditions of small-scale water supplies in rural areas. As a result, Serbia provided the first systematic national overview of the situation of rural water supply. The findings allow national and regional decision makers to identify regulatory measures towards improving management and surveillance of small systems, including regulatory</p>

			<p>uptake of the WHO-recommended water safety plan (WSP) approach. The results of the rapid assessment were disseminated and discussed in a national consultation (Belgrade, 27 October 2016) with high-level political support by the Serbian Minister of Health and Director of the National Institute of Public Health.</p> <p>In a national workshop in Albania (Tirana, 28-29 September 2016) a broad range of national stakeholders discussed the current situation in rural water supply. National stakeholders identified specific challenges related to management and surveillance of small-scale supplies, such as undertrained personnel, disrupted infrastructures, lack of systematic and ongoing public health surveillance, and identified a series of improvement interventions, including better national regulations to address the situation of private wells and the introduction of WSPs.</p>
	<p>IA2.2 Increased number of countries reporting on the progress in developing and implementing water and sanitation safety planning approaches for managing small-scale water supply and sanitation systems in rural areas under the Protocol on Water and Health</p>	<p>The project supported sensitization about the concept and principles of water and sanitation safety planning approaches, including their added value for public health and options for regulatory uptake in a total of four countries since the inception of the project (Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of</p>	<p>Two guidance documents were launched at the 4th session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 14-16 November 2016) in Russian and English. The document “Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems. Tools and good practices from the pan-European Region” provides a rationale and guidance towards creating an enabling environment and scaling-up safe management</p>

		<p>Macedonia). Concrete uptake of water safety plans is planned in one country (Serbia), whereas three countries (Albania, Kyrgyzstan, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) are in the exploratory stage.</p>	<p>approaches in rural water supply. The document “Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region. Results of a survey conducted under the Protocol on Water and Health” aims to improve the evidence based on small-scale water supplies throughout the Region.</p> <p>Through the activities mentioned under IA2.1, the project disseminated the core principles of the guidance documents at national level, and thereby triggered recognition and (possible) long-term uptake of water and sanitation safety planning approaches at national level.</p>
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Table 2 – Review of Activities and status

Activities	Activity status	Comment
<p>(A1.1) Organize six country missions to review the situation in target countries in relation to access to water and sanitation, including a rapid assessment of small-scale water supply systems in rural areas to improve the evidence base, and implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and to develop recommendations on the way forward;</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i></p>	<p>In 2014-2015, 3 country missions had been carried out: Serbia (2014), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (16-17 June 2015) and Armenia (15 December 2015).</p> <p>The rapid assessment of small-scale water systems has been fully implemented in Serbia in the reporting period. A (preliminary) final report on the results of the rapid assessment has been prepared (see Annex).</p> <p>A corresponding country mission to Serbia was undertaken (Belgrade, 27 October 2016) to review the situation by presenting and discussing the final project results with national and local stakeholders, including the Minister of Health.</p> <p>Remaining two country missions are planned in 2017.</p>

<p>(A1.2) Organize two national workshops in two of the beneficiary countries to provide guidance to policymakers, decision-makers, and to other concerned actors, to develop policies and measures aimed at ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation;</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i></p>	<p>In 2014-2015, one national workshop on equitable access was organized in Baku, Azerbaijan (29 September 2015).</p> <p>Two additional national workshops were organized in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 19-20 January 2016, Veles, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - 7-8 July 2016, Yerevan, Armenia. <p>Outcomes of the assessments of the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation based on the findings of the <i>Equitable Access Score-card</i> applied in both countries were discussed, as well as possible policy options and specific measures to be adopted in order to improve equitable access to water and sanitation.</p>
<p>(A1.3) Organize a regional workshop to provide guidance to policy- and decision-makers and to other concerned actors to develop policies and measures aimed at ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation, and to promote the exchange of experiences in the region and analyze further challenges and needs;</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i></p>	<p>A regional workshop “Achieving equitable access to water and sanitation: from assessment to action” was organized on 21 - 22 March 2016 in Geneva.</p> <p>During the workshop, the following themes were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority gaps and actions needed across the pan-European region to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation; - Possible ways to integrate actions to achieve equitable access into water and non-water sectors policy processes and plans; - Financial implications of actions to achieve equitable access and possible options to finance them. <p>Participants recognized the importance of developing a detailed situation analysis of the challenges faced in providing equitable access, as a necessary step towards providing equitable access and achieving the human rights to water and sanitation and contributing to the sustainable Development Goals’ implementation. The <i>Equitable Access Score-card</i> was recognized a</p>

		<p>very useful tool for that purpose. In addition, participants highlighted the necessity for Ministries of Health and Water to cooperate with other Ministries and stakeholders (such as Ministries of Social Protection, Finance, Education, national human rights institutions...) to ensure progress and sustainability of actions to be taken to improve equitable access.</p> <p>Progress of the work on assessing equitable access to water and sanitation in several countries of the pan-European region was reviewed.</p>
<p>(A1.4) Organize a regional workshop to assist countries in their reporting obligations under the Protocol on Water and Health and, at the same time, streamline efforts with post-2015 sustainable development goal(s) and reporting;</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i></p>	<p>A regional workshop “Collecting good practices on target setting and reporting” was organized on 8-9 March 2016, during the third reporting cycle under the Protocol in Geneva.</p> <p>The workshop aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences by reviewing and reporting progress on the targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health in order to support countries in preparing and submitting their mandatory summary reports. The workshop also contributed to the development of the publication <i>Collection of good practices and lessons learned on target setting and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health</i>³, which includes a number of case studies on reporting under the Protocol.</p> <p>During the workshop, good practices and lessons learned related to target setting and reporting under the Protocol on water and Health were identified.</p> <p>The workshop also focused on how to set targets under the article 6.2 of the Protocol to support the 2030</p>

³ See http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/mop4/Informal_doc/1623256_E_FinalWeb_rev.pdf.

		<p>Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on the experiences of the programme of work of the Protocol. Links between targets under the Sustainable Development Goals and target areas under the Protocol were identified.</p>
<p>(A2.1) Organize two national workshops in two of the beneficiary countries to provide guidance to policy- and decision-makers in addressing the specific challenges of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, to promote the exchange between national and local authorities, and to develop capacities for safe and sustainable management of small-scale water supplies. The beneficiary countries will be selected on the basis of demands, needs and commitment to work in this area, as expressed in the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health intergovernmental bodies;</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i></p>	<p>One national workshop on small-scale water supply and sanitation systems was organized in 2015 in Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>In 2016, one national workshop on small-scale water supply and sanitation systems was organized in Albania (Tirana, 28-29 September 2016). The workshop raised awareness to decision-makers of the specific challenges of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, introduced safe management approaches, and advocated for the need to explicitly address small systems through the development of policy and implementation of actions.</p>
<p>(A2.2) Organize two subregional workshops to provide guidance to policy- and decision-makers in addressing the specific challenges of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems;</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i></p>	<p>Both sub-regional workshops are in the preparation phase. Both Belarus and Serbia announced their willingness to host subregional workshops during the 4th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health in November 2016. The first workshop will take place in Minsk, Belarus, on 15-17 March 2017, the second in Belgrade, Serbia, in early fall 2017 (exact date tbc).</p>
<p>(A2.3) Develop guidance and promotional material on safe management of water and sanitation in rural areas through small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, and the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i></p>	<p>The documents “Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems. Tools and good practices from the pan-European Region” and “Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region. Results of a survey conducted under the Protocol on Water and Health” have been published in English and Russian and were launched at the 4th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water</p>

		and Health in November 2016.
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3. CHALLENGES/PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED SO FAR

Table 3 – Challenges and actions

Description of challenge	Action(s) taken to solve the issue, if any
No significant challenges encountered	

4. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING

Table 4 – Financial Leveraging

Donor	Purpose	Amount raised	
		Cash (USD)	In-Kind
France	-UNECE staff time to organize the activities related to equitable access to water and sanitation -Support to the assessment of the situation of equitable access in Armenia and organization of the national workshop on equitable access (Yerevan, 7-8 July 2016) - Logistical costs for the national workshop on equitable access to water and sanitation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Veles, 19-20 January 2016)	3 months of a P3 1 month of G4 30,588 USD 4,037 EUR	
Switzerland	UNECE staff time to organize the workshop to assist countries in their reporting obligations under the Protocol (A 1.4)	1 month of a P3 12,000 USD	

5. REVISIONS

All planned activities are on track.

Thanks to the co-funding by France, savings were possible under activity A1.2. "Two national workshops in two of the beneficiary countries to provide guidance to policy- and decision-makers on equitable access to water and sanitation". Therefore, an additional national workshop could be organized in a third country (Armenia).

For activity A1.3, it was initially planned to organize the regional workshop in one of the eligible countries under the project and use UNDP services to organize the travel of participants and take care of logistical arrangements for the workshop. The workshop was finally organized in Geneva to also facilitate the involvement of several partners based in Geneva (WHO, UN Water, OHCHR, WaterLex). Costs are therefore to be charged to budget line "workshops" instead of "contractual services". The total cost of the workshop was less than initially planned.

A reallocation of funds between budget categories for the activity "Rapid assessment of small-scale water supply systems in rural areas to improve the evidence base" (under activity A1.1) was requested. Such change was aimed to decrease consultancy costs (i.e. reducing national consultant and consultant fees) by 17,500 USD in favour of increasing the budget for contractual services required for field implementation of the assessment (lab analysis...) by the same amount. Approval was given by PMU on 3 February 2016.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information on the Workshop on equitable access to water and sanitation: "Applying the Equitable Access Score-card in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (Veles, 19 - 20 January 2016) available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41743#/>

More information on the Workshop on collecting good practices on target setting and reporting (Geneva, 8 - 9 March 2016) available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41691#/>

More information on the Regional Workshop on achieving equitable access to water and sanitation: from assessment to action (Geneva, 21 - 22 March 2016) available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42097#/>

More information on the Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation in Armenia (Yerevan, 7 - 8 July 2016) available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43155#/>

Summary reports submitted by countries (Parties and non-Parties to the protocol) in the framework of the Third reporting exercise under the Protocol on Water and Health, with information on progress in ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, available at: http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_third_reporting_cycle.html

Guidance documents on small-scale water supply and sanitation developed with support of the project:

- *Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems. Tools and good practices from the pan-European Region*, available at:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/publications/2016/taking-policy-action-to-improve-small-scale-water-supply-and-sanitation-systems.-tools-and-good-practices-from-the-pan-european-region-2016>

- *Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region. Results of a survey conducted under the Protocol on Water and Health*, available at:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/publications/2016/status-of-small-scale-water-supplies-in-the-who-european-region.-results-of-a-survey-conducted-under-the-protocol-on-water-and-health-2016>

Technical report on the results of the Rapid Assessment of the situation of small-scale water supply systems in rural areas in Serbia (available upon request).

7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION ⁴

Object Class	Description	A. Budget/Allotment (as per project document) (USD)	B. Revisions to allotments (if any) (USD)	C. Explanations of revisions to allotments (USD)	D. Total Expenditure ¹ (USD)
015	Other staff costs - General temporary assistance	48,000	48,000		31,484.37
105	Consultants and expert	124,000	106,500		30,336.95
115	Travel of staff	42,000	42,000		10,528.17
120	Contractual services	314,000	331,500		46,688.72
125	General operating expenses	0	0		147.94
130	Supplies and materials	0	0		0
135	Furniture and equipment	0	0		0
145	<i>Workshops / Study tours</i> (Grants out and contributions)	50,000	50,000		137,844.87
	Total	578,000	578,000		257,031.02

⁴ While IMIS object classes were still in use when the 9th tranche Development Account projects were allotted, every effort should be made to report the requested information using the UMOJA object classes reflected in the table.

¹ Total expenditures cumulated in 2015 and 2016. Please note that the financial table does not reflect 2016 expenses by WHO/Europe, which haven't yet been charged to the project.

Implementation rate (%)	= 44.5%
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