

Introduction to the Protocol on Water and Health and its main obligations

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Why a treaty to manage water resources and prevent water-related diseases ?



- In the pan-European Region, poor-quality drinking-water causes over 13,000 deaths from diarrhoea among children aged 0–14 years (5.3% of all deaths in this age group) each year
- 19 million people still do not have access to improved water sources and 67 million people lack access to improved sanitation facilities
- Inequalities rise: in the Caucasus and Central Asia, 22% of the rural population lacks access to improved drinking-water sources as opposed to only 4% of urban dwellers
- 71% of the rural population lacks access to piped water on premises, compared to 16% in urban areas
- Overuse, pollution, extreme weather events affect water resources

The Protocol on Water and Health



- The world's **only legal treaty** addressing protection of human health and well-being through linking sustainable water management with prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease

- Tool to **achieve water and health related SDGs** and framework to implement the human right to water and sanitation.

- Focus on **governance, integration of policies and on cooperation**

Key objectives:

- Access to drinking water for everyone and
- Provision of sanitation for everyone



Goal: Protect human health and well being by better management of water resources



Environmental Management

- Effective protection of water related ecosystems and sustainable use of water resources
- Provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for everyone

Health Outcomes

- Prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases
- Detection, contingency planning and response to outbreaks



.. beyond water and health sectors

The bottlenecks in addressing these problems often occur beyond the purview of the water and health sectors:

- Formulation and implementation of policies**
- Effectiveness and coordination of institutions**
- Translation of political will into action**
- Allocation of resources at national and international level**
- Countries' capacity**

Scope

**Costal
and
estuarine
waters**



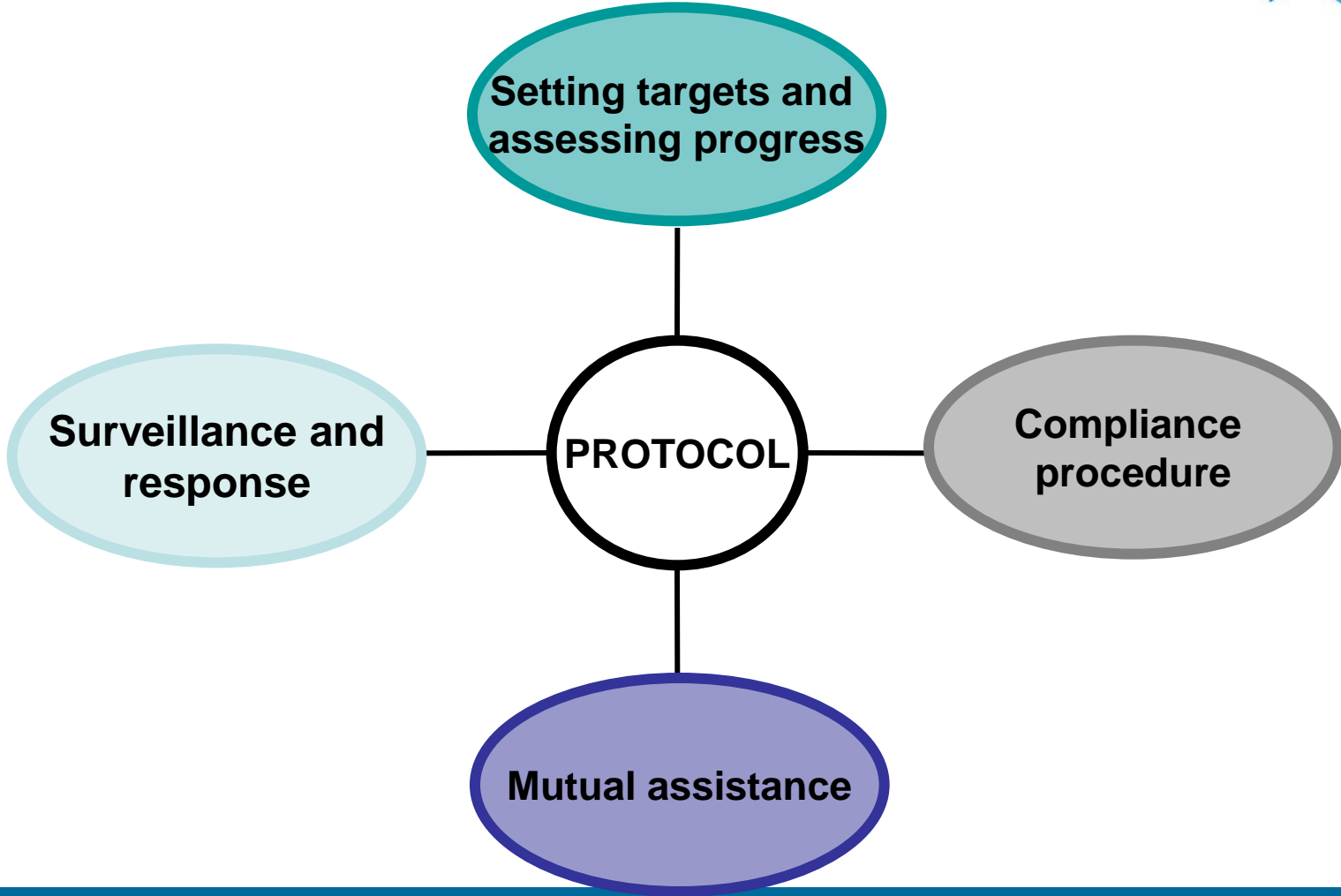
**Surface
and
ground
waters**



**Wastewater
collection,
transport,
treatment,
discharge,
reuse**

**Water during
abstraction,
transport,
treatment
and supply**

How the Protocol works: its 4 pillars



Setting targets and measuring progress



SET TARGETS

- Water supply and sanitation
- Water management
- Health protection

SET DATES

Within 2 years of becoming a Party, each country sets and publishes targets, and dates for achieving them

REVIEW PROGRESS

Parties:

- collect and evaluate data
- publish results
- review progress
- provide summary reports

EVALUATE

MOP evaluate progress in implementation

Target setting areas

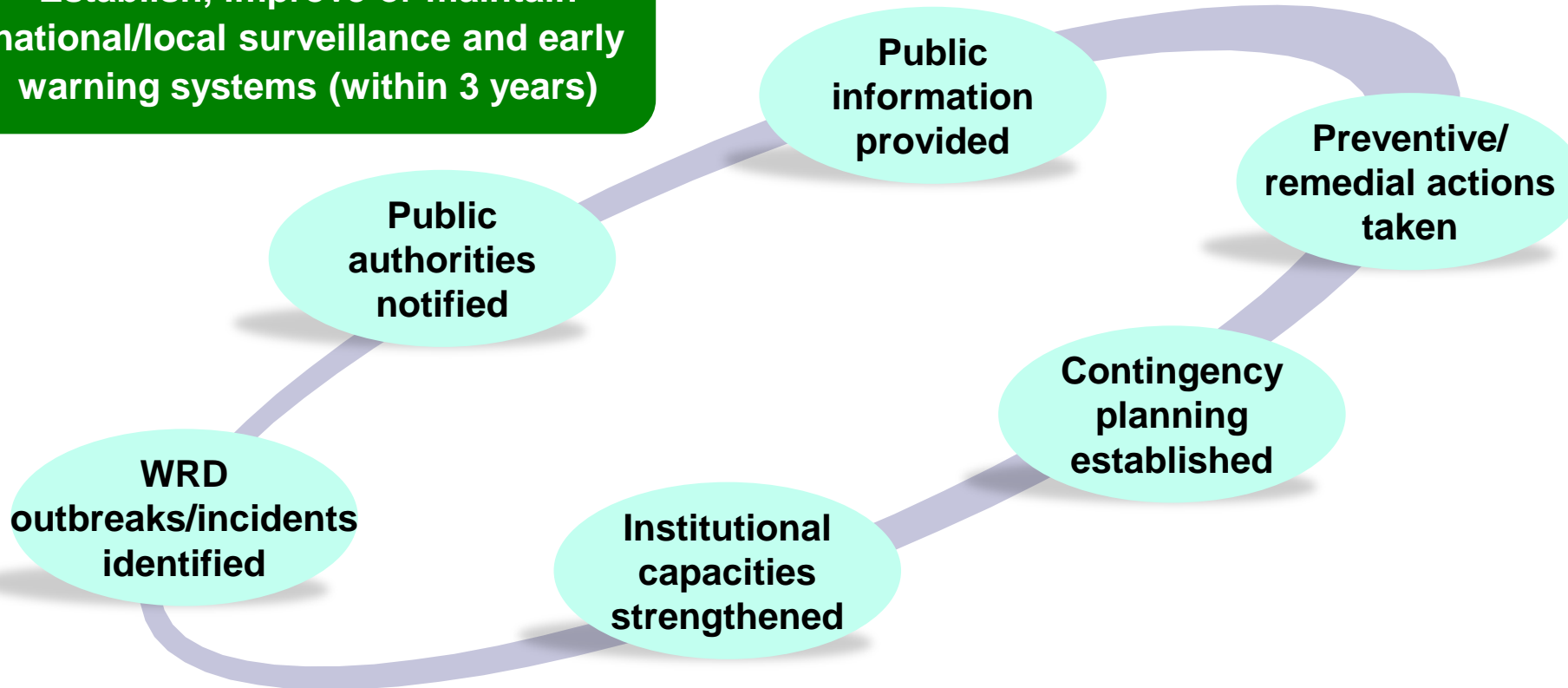


Core provision: health systems

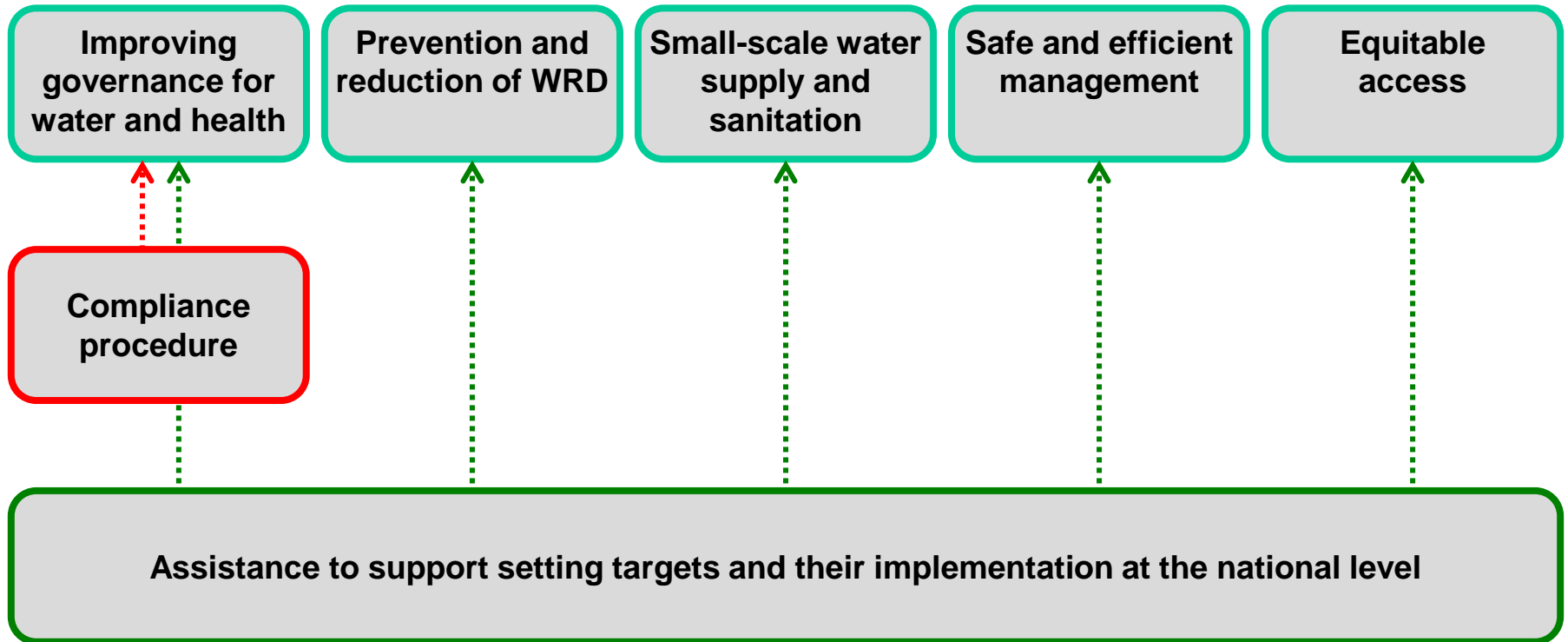
Article 8



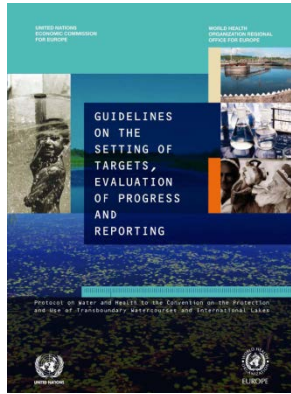
Establish, improve or maintain national/local surveillance and early warning systems (within 3 years)



Programme of work for 2014-2016



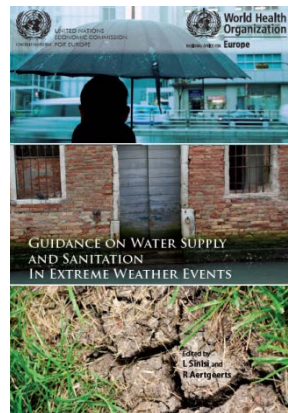
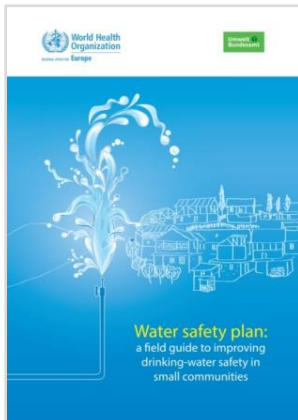
Guidance materials



➤ **Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting under the Protocol**

➤ **No one left behind. Good practices to ensure equitable access**

➤ **Scorecard on equitable access**



➤ **Guide to Public Participation**

➤ **Small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region**

➤ **Guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events**

➤ **Water Safety Plan: a field guide**

Benefits and added value of Protocol



- **Legally** binding => ensures long-term perspective and forms a basis for improved regulatory environment
- **Flexible approach** allowing focus on countries' challenges, needs and resources with measurable targets
- Mechanism for **intersectoral cooperation**
- Requires **political commitment** but is also a powerful framework to generate it
- Instrument for fulfilling **international commitments**:
SDGs, human right to water and sanitation
- Regional hub for **mutual assistance and cooperation**

Successes and challenges



- **Significant progress achieved in access to water**
- **Remaining challenges :**
 - **Rural areas: access to safe water and adequate sanitation, quality aspects, hygiene, performance**
 - **Small-scale water supplies and sanitation**
 - **Climate change impacts**
 - **Wastewater treatment and discharges of untreated wastewater**



Institutional challenges

- **Sustained cooperation amongst Ministries of health, environment, agriculture, economy, finance**
- **Cooperation between governments and civil society**
- **Securing funds for the implementation of the action plan with concrete measures**
- **Mobilizing more political attention**

2030 Development Agenda and Water SDG: expected implications for Protocol



- **Revision of the Guidelines for setting targets, evaluation of progress and reporting in line with 2030 Development Agenda**
- **Revision of the template for reporting**
- **Increasing focus (joining forces with WHO) on sanitation, wastewater, safe and efficient water management, equitable access, health promotion, financing, human resources**
- **Possible adjustment of current targets and indicators to future global indicators**
- **Integration of reporting under the Protocol with global monitoring framework**
- **Considering revision of target dates for Parties**



Rakhmat!

[*http://unece.org/env/water*](http://unece.org/env/water)

