

Guidance note on the Development of Action Plans to Ensure Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation

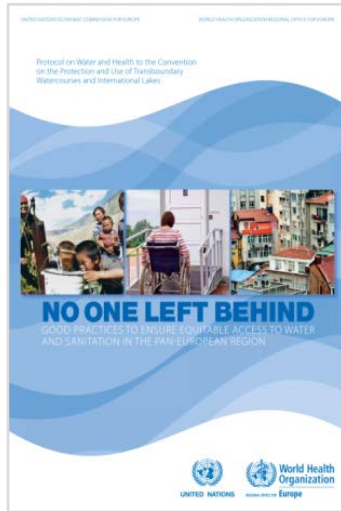
**Development of the Action Plan for Improvement of the Equitable Access
to Water and Sanitation in the region of Sumadija and Pomoravlje**

Consultative workshop

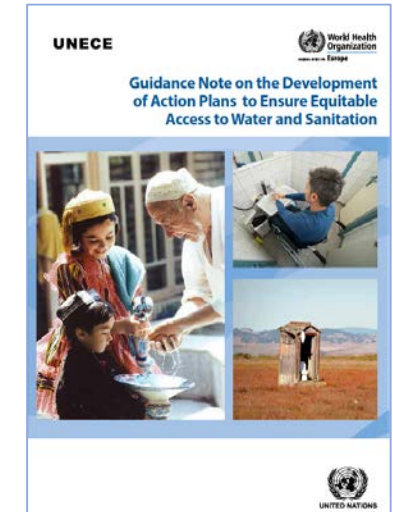
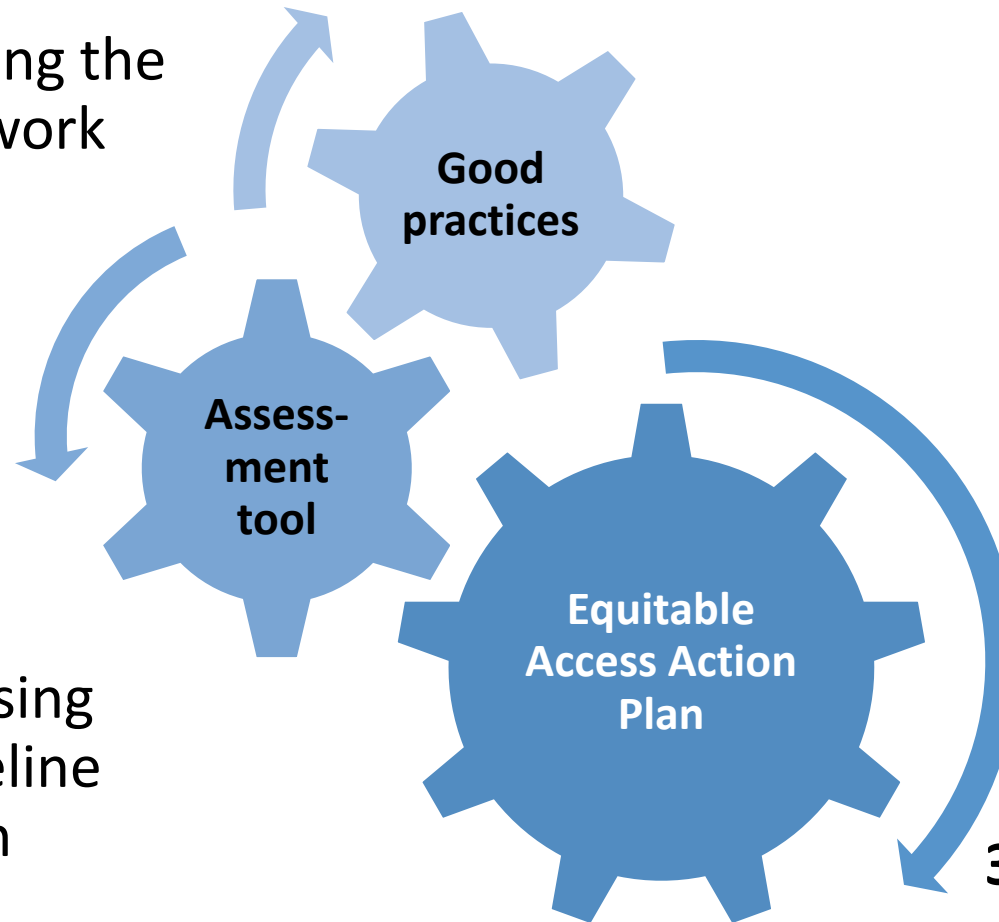
15th August 2018

Diane Guerrier, UNECE, Co-secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health

Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health



1. Setting the framework

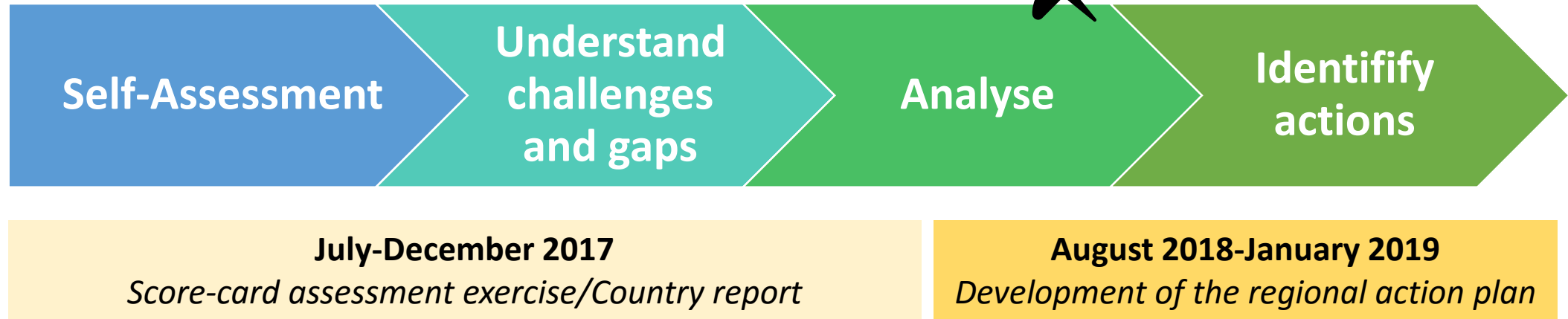


2. Assessing the baseline situation

3. Defining action

Where does Serbia stand?

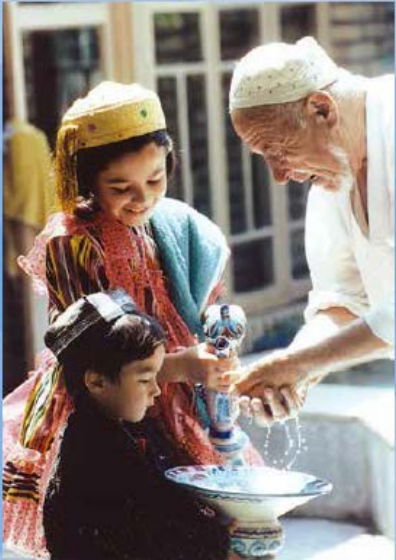
Consultative
workshop 15
August 2018



UNECE



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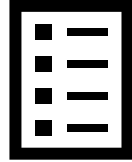


Content:

- 1. Concept, rationale and benefits of an action plan**
- 2. Content of an action plan**
- 3. Process of developing an equitable access action plan**
- 4. Examples of possible measures to improve equitable access to water and health**
- 5. Examples from other countries (Armenia and France)**

1. Concept, rationale and benefits of an action plan

Concept of an action plan:



→ Tool that helps a country/sub national entity to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation by identifying priority actions to be implemented and ways of implementing them.

Rationale:



→ Allow officials and other stakeholders to work together to identify priority actions that need to be taken, entry points into official plans and programmes, funding opportunities, and partnerships that need to be established or further developed for those actions to be successfully implemented.

Benefits:



- Can help in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG #6 targets)
- Can facilitate dialogue with international partners and attract funds for the implementation of the measures included in the Plan

2. Content of an action plan

→ Defined Objectives

→ Brief diagnostic of the situation

→ Priority areas of action

→ Policy context

→ Priority measures and related costs

→ Integration in existing plans, programmes and projects

→ Implementation arrangements, timeline

→ Mapping potential funding sources



3. Process of developing an equitable access action plan

1. Identification of one or two leading government agencies.
2. Set up of an inter-sectoral working group
3. Engage a broader number of contributing agencies and stakeholders through bilateral consultations and requests for information.
4. Draft the Action Plan
5. Organize a consultation workshop
6. Develop the final version of the Action Plan



4. Possible types of measures to improve equitable access to water and sanitation

- **Analysis** and evaluation of existing plans, policies and programmes
- **Legal and institutional reforms**, setting of specific equitable access **targets** under the Protocol on Water and Health;
- Modifications of existing **programmes in different policy areas**
- Instructions to include equity considerations as a pre-requisite in the formulation of new programmes and **projects**
- Introduction of **policy reforms** (such as targeted financial support schemes to address affordability concerns)
- Targeted **investments**
- **Communication** efforts to promote equitable access to water and sanitation and to raise awareness of **users** of water and sanitation services on their relevant rights and mechanisms to claim them
- **Capacity-building initiatives** to enhance the understanding of the importance and implications of adopting an equitable access lens to the planning and delivery of water and sanitation services by staff in relevant ministries, agencies and utilities

Overview of countries' action on equitable access

Date	Countries and assessment scale	Development of an action plan or specific measures
2013	Portugal <i>National</i>	Specific measures on social tariffs
2013	Ukraine <i>National + city</i>	Supported fund raising
2013	France <i>Paris urban area</i>	Policy and regulatory measures
2014	Republic of Moldova <i>National</i>	Specific target under the Protocol
2015	Azerbaijan <i>National</i>	Ongoing assessment
2016	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Local actions plans + concrete measures implemented
2016	Spain <i>Municipal</i>	
2016	Hungary <i>National</i>	Specific measures identified
2016	Armenia <i>National</i>	National Action plan 2018-2020 adopted
2017	Serbia <i>Regional</i>	Starting development of Action plan
2018	Bulgaria <i>National</i>	Finalizing assessment, link to regulatory changes

EXAMPLE OF ARMENIA

Implementation of the self-assessment

- **Project duration:** November 2015 – October 2016
- **Exercise scale:** National
- **Project core team:** State Committee on Water Economy of the Ministry of Agriculture, NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
- **Main findings:** Limited information on water supply and sanitation by vulnerable and marginalized groups; 570 rural communities not provided by water supply companies; possible affordability concerns after the concession of water supply services (in 2016).



Impact on decision-making

- **Main outcomes and actions taken:**
 - (1) Amendments in Water Code to ensure equal access to water and sanitation;
 - (2) Development of an National Action Plan (2018-2020) on ensuring access to water supply and sanitation approved (Dec. 2016 – June 2017)



Snapshot of the Armenian 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

EXAMPLE OF FRANCE

Implementation of the self-assessment

- **Project duration:** 2012-2013
- **Exercise scale:** Paris urban area
- **Project core team:** City of Paris water operator, regional water union and its operator Veolia Water, wastewater treatment interdepartemental authority
- **Main findings:** challenge in the access of vulnerable and marginalised groups to W&S



Impact on decision-making

- **Actions taken to reduce inequities:**
 - (1) Law adopted (2014) to forbid disconnection and enable service providers to test social tariffs
 - (2) Issue of vulnerable and marginalized groups addressed by other sectorial policies: plan to fight against exclusion in Paris (adopted in 2015)
 - (3) National Plan on Health and Environment 2015-2019, Action 101 promotes equitable access assessments
 - (4) National plan 2015-2019 on household sanitation



Thank you for your attention !

<http://unece.org/env/water>

https://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_work/equitable_access.html

Contact: guerrierd@un.org

