

# Programme area 2.2

## Drinking water quality surveillance

Lead Parties: Norway, Belarus  
Supported by WHO secretariat

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Protocol on Water and Health



# Activities undertaken in the period 2017-2019

- \* Development of an advocacy document for decision makers on risk-based surveillance of drinking water quality
- \* Joint workshop on WRD-surveillance and risk-based drinking- water surveillance and environmental assessment (AZE, 2018)



# Main achievements: First Expert Group meeting (Minsk, 13-14 February 2017)

- \* Discussed countries' experiences, challenges and needs in surveillance
- \* Provided conceptual inputs on the **annotated outline** of the document
- \* Identified the target audience, **scope, key principles, structure and format** of the document
- \* Identified potential **case studies**



# Document development

- \* **Target audience:** regulators and policy makers
- \* **Short and concise:** provide arguments for adopting a risk-based approach in drinking water quality surveillance
- \* **Describe core building blocks** of risk-based approaches and good practice examples of risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality
- \* **Provide an overview of existing resources** to support implementation of risk-based surveillance

# Document development: Key messages

1. RBS of drinking-water quality is a vital function of the water supplier.
2. RBS is critical to the protection of public health. It is a responsibility of government to facilitate.
3. RBS builds in-depth knowledge of the water system from catchment to consumer.
4. Sanitary inspections are a key element of RBS of drinking-water quality.
5. RBS is a proactive approach to monitoring and controlling critical risks in the water supply.

# Document development: Key messages

6. Water quality monitoring accredits, rather than defines system performance. Monitoring for compliance with standards is an important activity when fitted to known risks of the water supply system.
7. RBS of drinking-water quality increases the resilience of water supply systems by identifying vulnerabilities and improvement actions.
8. Strategies for effective communication at all levels is an integral element of surveillance.

# Proposed structure/design

## Risk-based approaches towards strengthening drinking water quality surveillance

### Call for action messages

- Drinking-water quality surveillance is a core public health function. Governments should take systematic action to build an effective surveillance system.
- Strengthen the national drinking-water quality regulations and standards by introducing (adopting) risk-based approaches and surveillance requirements.
- Secure adequate institutional and financial resources to maintain and sustain the effective surveillance systems by setting a functional enforcement mechanism

### Key message of risk-based surveillance (RBS) of drinking-water quality

- Risk-based water quality surveillance incorporates the principles of surveillance and risk management expressed in the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality (4<sup>th</sup> Edition), the EU Commission Directive 2015/1787, and International Standard BS EN 15975-2.
- Risk-based water quality surveillance is critical to the protection of public health. It is a responsibility of government . .

### RBS key message 1

### RBS key message 2

### RBS key message ...

**Rationale/benefits**

**Relevant case studies**

**Bibliography and further reading**

**Advanced full draft document “A risk-based approach towards strengthening drinking-water quality surveillance” prepared.**

# 11<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Water and Health

**Delegates are requested to review the draft document and provide feedback by 26 April 2019 on the following:**

- \* List of key messages and their description
- \* Format of the document
- \* Provide suitable case study for relevant principle



# Remaining work for period 2017-2019

- \* Finalize the **guidance document** on risk-based surveillance of drinking water quality
  - \* Facilitate the peer review
  - \* Editing, lay-out and print
- \* Capacity building activities **extended to next period of work programme**

**Program period 2020-2022**

# Objectives and expected outcomes

The thematic area aims to support Parties and other States in implementing article 8 of the Protocol:

(a) Strengthen national and local capacities with regard to improving, maintaining and sustaining vigilant public health surveillance and early warning systems of water-related disease

(b) Enhance preparedness, outbreak responses and investigation capacities

**(c) Support the building of effective systems for surveillance of drinking water quality**

# Main focus in 2020-2022

- \* **Disseminate the technical guidance** *Risk-based approaches for strengthening drinking water quality surveillance*
- \* Organize **subregional** and **national capacity-building** workshops to support Parties and other States in adopting the risk-based surveillance approaches in regulations and practice
- \* Focus on conducting **integrated trainings**, specifically in coordination with:
  - \* programme area 4 on small-scale water supplies and sanitation
  - \* programme area 5 on safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation, and
  - \* thematic area 2.1 on water-related disease surveillance

# Main focus in 2020-2022

- \* Create and disseminate a reference list/inventory of supporting resources on risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality
  - \* national regulations and standards and tools
  - \* foster the exchange of country experiences and best practices



THANK YOU