

Countries experiences in assessing and improving equitable access to water and sanitation



5th session

**Meeting of the Parties to the
Protocol on Water and Health**

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1- Outcomes of the equitable access assessment



BELARUS

Ms. Alena DRAZDOVA, Ministry of Health



Семинар «Протокол по проблемам воды и здоровья: равный доступ к воде и санитарии, актуализация целевых показателей в Республике Беларусь» (Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on the Protocol on Water and Health: Equitable access to water and sanitation and target-setting in Belarus)



29 ОКТЯБРЯ 2019 г., г. Минск

Обсуждены:

- результаты самооценки равного доступа к воде и санитарии в Республике Беларусь с применением методики Протокола;
- рекомендации экспертов для улучшения ситуации
- целевые показатели, разработанные с учетом результатов оценки

ОСНОВНЫЕ Challenges:

- недостаток фактических данных, особенно по доступу уязвимы и маргинальных групп
- разделить уязвимые и маргинальные группы
- как использовать результаты для установления ЦП по ПРОТОКОЛУ
- как интегрировать результаты в ЦУР
- как донести результаты до широких кругов



Предложения для дальнейшей работы:

- **Декабрь 2019 г.** - внести результаты самооценки равного доступа к воде и санитарии в Республике Беларусь с применением методики Протокола в Межведомственный координационный совет по Протокол,
- **Январь 2020 г.** – обсудить на совещании Межведомственного совета
- **Февраль – март 2020 г.** - направить краткое резюме итогов и рекомендации заинтересованным органам госуправления, исполнительным комитетам, неправительственным организациям для использования в работе при разработке Стратегий, планировании Государственных программ, Планов территориального развития



AZERBAIJAN

Ms. Gunel GURBANOVA, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources



Key findings of the self-assessment

- Need to strengthen the water bodies monitoring system and update the status of the water bodies
- Existence of geographical discrepancies in access to water and sanitation between rural and urban areas, with some neighborhoods in rural and mountainous areas without access to centralized water systems.
- Need to further reform water policies, establishment of an adequate governance framework
- Need to further implement EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) principles for integrated water resources management
- Necessity of the sustainability of public programs used to eliminate geographical disparities, to provide equal access to drinking water and sanitation
- Need to expand sanitary awareness campaigns for the regions



Actions taken after the self-assessment

- Official adoption of the national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in 2018
- In 2018, quality of drinking water in chemical and microbiological indicators improved in schools. Development of SanPiN for hygienic requirements and control of drinking water of both centralized and decentralized water supply started.
- Public awareness campaigns were launched in 2017, in cooperation with Norway, on Water Safety Plans.
- Since March 2018, Azersu implemented water restoration projects in more than 100 villages and drilled wells. Some additional water treatment systems were built.
- In 2010-2018, construction and installation works were carried out to improve drinking water supply in 310 villages with a population of 530,000.
- 39 new drinking water sources created with total productivity of 18.5 m³ / sec (1.6 million / day)
- Number of people receiving centralized drinking water doubled (2016-2019), reaching 5.4 million as a result of national / international programming and strategic work, with services of azersu ojsc.



BULGARIA

Ms. Diana ISKREVA, NGO EarthForever



Key findings of the self-assessment

- Major problems to comply with Council Directive 91/271/EEC on urban waste water (in penalty procedure since July 2017);
- Geographical disparities – capital-periphery; urban-rural areas;
- Jeopardised affordability of the services;
- Chronic problems with unwise investments in the sector, especially in sanitation; need of enormous investments to address EU legislation requirements;
- Lack of strategy to address illegal housing; etc.



Actions taken after the self-assessment

Strategy for Development and Management of Water Supply and Sewerage in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2023:

- affordability,
- vulnerable user data,
- guaranteed minimum water consumption,
- protection of vulnerable consumers, solidarity fee.

Based on this, the new law will implement a mechanism to guarantee access for vulnerable consumers or users; to ensure most effective spending of public funds and maximum limitation of the risk of transferring financial burden to the groups at highest risk.



Financing equitable access to water and sanitation

- Chronic shortage of financing in the water and sanitation sector due to unrealistic assessment of the potential, resources and needs of the sector to meet EU requirements and standards; unrealistic expectation of 95% external financing to sustain the sector reform.
- The sector strategy estimates investments by 2038 to reach EUR 12.4 billion, two-thirds of these through internally generated funds and loans which will reflect to a significant increase in the prices of water and sanitation services.



2- Development and implementation of Equitable access action plan



SERBIA

Ms. Biljana Filipovic, Ministry of Environmental Protection



Key lessons learnt form the process of developing an Equitable access action plan

- Direct contact with local stakeholders brings about a change of attitude, leading them to appreciate the importance of equitable access to water and sanitation.
- Applying the tool at the local level allowed Serbia to ascertain how the national framework is applied.
- The implementation of thematic focus groups proved useful, as good practices were identified in the self-governments of Sumadija and Pomoravlje, and it was noted that these should be exchanged.



Actions taken after the self-assessment:

Period of implementation June 2019-June 2022.

→ 53 projects/initiatives (within 5 priorities/18 specific goals) encompass the following types of actions:

Enhancing the knowledge base at national and local level:

- Reforms to existing laws
- Improvements in strategic planning at national level
- Improving inter-institutional coordination at local level
- Strengthening the capacity of local self-governments
- Awareness-raising efforts
- Mobilization of financial resources
- Realization of investments



ARMENIA

Ms. Nune Bakunts, Ministry of Health



Lessons learnt from the process of developing an 2018-2020 Equitable Access Action Plan

- A multi-stakeholder approach to equitable access to water and sanitation allows for diverse perspectives to be considered, including on how to overcome the issues identified.
- The process enhances awareness and access to information, while avoiding duplication.
- It is important to foresee financial sources.



Next steps

- In frame of the EUWI+ programme:
 - Analysis of the water legislation framework ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation were done.
 - Gaps in legislative changes were identified and amendments to national legislation such as the Water Code were suggested.



NORTH MACEDONIA

Ms. Natasha Dokovska, Journalists for Human Rights



Lessons learnt from the process of developing an Equitable access action plan

	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cooperation- Mood for change- Desire to improve the situation regarding- Access to water and sanitation- MHM high on agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Political crisis- The dysfunction of the institutions



Foreseen next steps:

- **Implementation of LAP** by targeted municipalities (they still need to finished it) .
- On National Level, the ministries of social affaires and health, as well Institute for Public Health, start to negotiate about MHM (at least one toilet in school and all public institutions to be adapted for MHM, the taxes for hygiene pad to be decreased from 18 to 5 % and to open the market for sealing different and cheaper tools for MMH)
- **Acceptance of** access to water as a basic human rights to be part of Macedonian constitution
- **Review** on targeted community of equitable access to water and sanitation, and **self assessment** on new three communities



Thank you for your attention



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