

**BRIEF REPORT ON THE PROGRESS UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON
WATER AND HEALTH**

GEORGIA

2019

Executive Summary

The goal of this report is to evaluate the progress achieved in various fields in Georgia as according to the Protocol on “Water and Health Problems” as well as description of the main trends for implementation of requirements set by the protocol within the framework of sustainable development.

Although Georgia is not a party, the country has active cooperation with Protocol Secretariat and its structural divisions since the year 2010. At a first stage of National Policy dialogue on integrated water resources management (2011-2015), draft proposals for identification of target indicators for 8 spheres was elaborated, but not officially approved. Consultations about ratification of the protocol were regularly ongoing at a higher level, but the process was not finalized. Therefore, since 2015 Georgia is on the second stage of national policy dialogue, which envisions the following:

- Harmonization of legal acts on water with the EU legislation;
- Ratification of the protocol, elaboration and implementation of national target indicators;
- Enhancing mutual cooperation in the field of transboundary river management (river Mtkvari).

In 2016, the status quo of the activities planned in accordance with the draft proposals of target indicators from previous years, were analyzed, as a result, it was determined, that activities planned for 8 spheres had been practically implemented. In 2016-2018 no target indicators for other fields were elaborated, but other national and individual strategies, plans and programs have been implemented, which describe the goals and tasks for future implementation according to the protocol with respective deadlines.

Brief report on self-evaluation highlights the information on existing situation and progress achieved according to respective format. It covers the evaluation on general implementation of requirements of target indicators. Future directions until the year 2030 are determined considering the Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite the fact that several issues may not be highlighted in full, the presented data gives the opportunity to reveal the problem which hinders the future progress in the context of water and health protocol.

According to the EU Association Agreement, respective legislative and institutional changes are ongoing in the country. The draft law on “Water Resources Management”, technical regulation on quality of water for public use and other significant documents are elaborated.

Besides various national and sectorial strategies, plans and programs, the country has “Third National Action Plan of Environment Protection” (2017-2021) and “Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health” (2018-2021). These documents were elaborated based on the laws on “Environment Protection”, “Health Protection”, “Public Health Protection” and social-economic development goals and tasks. The mentioned documents also envision the three main policy trends which are as follows:

-)] Georgia-EU Association Agreement;
-)] UN Sustainable Development goals until 2030;
-)] International agreements and contracts in the field of environment and health protection.

Since 2016, Georgia has been involved in processes of “Water Supply and Sanitation Analysis and Evaluation” as well as “Environment and Health”. The country became the leader alongside Hungary in the field of achieving respective water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

By implementing country strategies, action plans and programs gradually improved water supply infrastructure, the quality of supply of quality water to the population. Funding for state monitoring program of drinking water has increased. Quality control system and organization of laboratorial analysis has improved. Scale of microbiological analysis of drinking water has increased. Significant progress has been achieved in the field of monitoring and control of water related diseases and epidemic outbreaks. Technical condition of public health protection laboratories has improved. As an outcome of the above-mentioned, it was possible to pass preventive measures in years 2016-2018 which resulted in the maintenance of the drinking water quality on the same level, but the technical condition of infrastructure and the problem of drinking water quality still remain on the agenda. In 2018, the state program “Freedom, Rapid Development and Welfare” was approved by the government. According to the program, around 400 000 people will be supplied with 24-hour water supply until the year 2020. The program also envisions the development of public health and monitoring system.

It is noteworthy to state that, the sanitary conditions of the population have improved as well. 97% of the population was supplied with adequate sanitary system in 2018, including 96% urban and 97% rural population. In 2018 sewage structure of Gardabani was put into operation, along with the Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Rustavi and nearby settlements sewage systems.

As for the implementation of the sustainable development goals of UN until 2030, the country has set concrete measures for achievement. Tasks and indicators transferred to national context of sustainable development goals will be reflected in sectorial strategies and policy documents. Council of sustainable development goals and certain thematic groups were created within the government administration. The process of identifying the priorities, tasks, basic and target indicators has already started. The process envisions the obligations overtaken by the country within the framework of international agreements. Matrix and Structure of Sustainable development goals are elaborated. 6th goal of the matrix relates to the water supply and sanitation issues. Online system of monitoring and suitability has been set up, monitoring system is meant for the state structures (internal platform/work space) while online suitability system is meant for public awareness.

Sustainable development goals, including drinking water and sanitation issues, are integrated in “Third National Action Plan of Environment Protection” (2017) and “Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health” (2018). By these documents, the country overtook the obligation of elaborating policy and practical measures for implementation. Coordination and cooperation mechanisms on international and national level have been defined as well as the improvement of national legislation. This type of integration will facilitate the implementation of protocol requirements in terms of sustainable development goals.

Part One

General Aspects

1. Were targets and target dates established in your country in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol?

Yes No In progress

2. Were targets and target dates published and, if so, how?

As the Protocol was not ratified in Georgia, target indicators in years 2016-2018 were not set.

3. Throughout years, according to the new National Policy Dialogue (2015) Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (since 2017 Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture) has been coordinating the activities in the direction of integrated management of water resources. Composition of National Coordination Committee has been respectively renewed. The committee was set up including respective stakeholders like ministries, state bodies and NGO representatives (Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture, Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Ministry of Finance, Municipal Development Fund, National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission, etc.), the committee also includes respective specialists from different NGOs: Ltd “Georgian Water Supply Company”; Ltd “Georgian Water and Power” and “National Water Partnership”.

Coordination of activities takes places through regular meetings, organized based on written notification in advance. In years 2016-2018 three coordination committee meetings were held (fourth, fifth and sixth). Meetings were also attended by the representatives of “Water and Health Protocol” secretariat.

4. Considering that in years 2016-2018 no target indicators were set, no specialized program or plans of operation for implementation of target indicators were elaborated. Despite this, the government approved respective state strategy programs and plans in 2015-2018 including: Third National Environmental Action programme of Georgia (2017-2021) and “Second National Plan of Environment and health” (2018-2022). The documents reflect: necessity of concrete priorities and problem identification, the resolution of which will support the improvement of water supply and sanitation; facilitating the decrease of infectious and water related diseases as well as epidemic outbreaks; Financial issues, etc.
5. Georgia represents the party to the “Aarhus convention”, respectively all state institutions, academic circles and NGOs are participating in elaboration of final version of state social documents. Besides, the following measures have been in place:
 - Special service units have been established within the government structures working with public awareness and mass media;

- All Ministries and institutions have created web-pages in the internet, through which the ongoing and planned activities implemented by the state structures are published;
- Electronic software systems of “Codex” and “Legislative Herald” have been created, where all legislative acts and by-laws are published;
- Environment Protection Center has been established within the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, which envision respective public awareness in indicated fields.

State institutions of Georgia consider the awareness of public in decision-making processes in different fields as a guarantee in taking the right decisions. This refers to environment as well as public health protection and other fields. Integration of ecologic and other standards in various improvement projects are achieved on behalf of “Health in all policy – General State Multi sectorial approach”.

Public participation in decision-taking process is not new to Georgia; the country has experience in this direction. The Center for Information on Environment Protection and Education of the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture plays an important part in this direction. It has intermediary function between the circles elaborating and implementing environmental policy, securing the preparation of strategies, legislation or management policies for target groups as well as delivery of information in easy and respective format.

6. Following institutions participated in elaboration of report:

1. Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (Water Division; National Food Agency; National Environment Agency);
 2. Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons From the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (National Center For Disease Control and Public Health);
 3. Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (United Water Supply Company);
 4. Municipal Development Fund;
 5. Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission;
 6. Ltd “Georgian Water and Power”
 7. NGO “National Water Partnership”, etc.
- Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture was in charge of preparation of the report. Following information was presented by its structures:
 - a) Quality control of drinking Water in years 2016-2018;
 - b) Quality and monitoring of surface and underground waters in years 2016-2018;
 - National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of the ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia presented the following information:
 - a) About elaboration of national standards on quality of different purpose waters;
 - b) Infectious diseases and epidemic outbreaks related to water and further improvement of public health protection
 - United Water Supply Company of Georgia presented the following information:

- a) About quality of drinking water on the operation area of the company in years 2016-2018;
 - b) Projects implemented by the company in the field of water supply and sanitation in mentioned years.
- Georgian National Energy and Water Regulatory Commission presented the following information:
 - a) About licensing of water supply operator companies;
 - b) Reports on implemented activities in years 2016-2018 by the commission.
7. On Federal level, Government of Georgia is the main body in charge of elaboration and implementation of Environment and public health policy, water supply and sanitation as well as respective ministries and state institutions, while local self-government bodies are in charge on local level.
- Government elaborates and approves social-economic development strategies, projects, plans and programs of the country, including water supply and sanitation, also takes necessary decisions in funding construction and rehabilitation works of these systems.
 - Ministry of Environment protection and agriculture elaborates the policy including water, controls the quality of surface and drinking water, and prepares respective information and implements public awareness.
 - Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia elaborates the rules and regulations on infectious diseases including water related diseases and monitoring of epidemic outbreaks, control and registration of data, supports strengthening laboratorial potential on national, regional and local level, prepares brochures on existing situation and carries out public awareness campaigns.
 - United Water Supply Company implements construction of water supply and sanitation system projects on regional level also controls the quality of drinking water on its operation area.
 - Ministry of Economy and sustainable development supports the management of programs;
 - Ministry of Finance provides the funding for social-economic development projects;
 - National Energy and Water Regulatory Commission carries out licensing of water supply operators, regulates the tariffs and conducts public awareness;
 - Municipal development company conducts construction and rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation systems;
 - Local self-government bodies are in charge of water supply and sanitation on the spot.

Part Two

Targets and target dates set and assessment of Progress

I. Quality of Supplied Drinking Water (Article 6, Point 2a)

1. Considering that Georgia hasn't ratified this protocol, target indicators in years 2016-2018 were not set. Despite this, it is noteworthy to present information on history of this issue.

There are more than 2000 bore-holes for water supply, having great debit, but surface water objects are also used for the population of several cities (Tbilisi, Batumi, Borjomi), their quality relatively low, due to which they undergo processing. According to data of National Energy and Water Regulatory Commission for the years 2017-2018, technical condition of the water supply infrastructure plays crucial part, especially in the countryside. As a result, water supply of the countryside is not always safe because often central and distribution network is outdated, which can be one of the reasons for pollution of drinking water.

In terms of the background, Georgia joined the EU legislative space and signed the association agreement. Since 2014, the entropic standards are being gradually introduced to the Georgian legislation. The Government approved "Technical Regulation on Drinking Water" (No#58, dated 15.01.2014) and the "Technical Regulation on Preservation and Disinfection of Centralized and Local Water Supply Waters" (#62, dated 15.01.2014).

Sanitary requirements of drinking water, water quality monitoring and state control mechanisms have been established by technical water regulations. Quality indicators and norms of drinking water are defined. Considering that the main source of water supply in Georgian rural communities are non-centralized, the Ministry of Health has approved "Sanitary Requirements for Water Quality of Non-Centralized Water Supply Systems" (# 297 / N. 16 08. 2001)

"Technical Regulation for Disinfection of Centralized and Local Water Supply Waters" (2014), determine the procedure for conducting these procedures.

The quality control of drinking water is carried out by the National Food Agency of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Funding for the state program for drinking water quality control in year 2016 was 109 500 million GEL (55,000 \$) while in 2017 - 109 000 GEL (55 000 \$) was allocated, in 2018 the figure was - 105 000 GEL (42 000 \$). The agency has created information base on drinking water quality. Dynamics of drinking water Quality Control by National Food Agency is presented in Table # 1.

Dynamics of Control of Drinking Water Quality in years 2014-2018 Table 1.

| Years | Number of Samples | Violation | % |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|------|
| 2016 | 462 | 218 | 47.2 |
| 2017 | 548 | 232 | 42.3 |
| 2018 | 576 | 249 | 43.2 |

According to the National Food Agency's Information (2019), in 2016-2018, the inconsistency of drinking water samples varied from 42.3 to 47.2%. 97% of non-compliance with drinking water quality norms was due to microbiological parameters. Pollution with Parasites (lamblyia cysts) is low and comprised 0.18%. Drinking water pollution is mainly related to pollution in rural water supply systems. Level of non-compliance with physical-chemical parameters of drinking water quality is also relatively low (6.5%).

2. The issues of water supply of the population and water quality improvement are reflected in the strategies and plans of the country and regions of Georgia (Social-Economic Development Strategy of Georgia "-2020" №400 17.06.2014, Social and Economic Development Strategies of the Regions of Georgia 2018-2021 No. 1292. National Rural Development Strategy of Georgia 2017-2020 30.12.2016 Georgia Mountainous Population Development Strategy 2019-2023 (2018) and etc. These documents reflect the following:

- necessity of identifying specific priorities and problems;
- Solve the problems of accessibility to safe, quality drinking water and sanitation, including in rural settlements.

These measures are financed from the state budget as well as by European and Asian Development Banks.

In accordance with the education and science development strategy of the country, the improvement of infrastructural, sanitary-technical conditions and water supply systems for children's preschool and school facilities, is implemented.

Considering this, the Government approved the technical regulation on "Sanitary-Hygienic Rules and Norms for Preschool and School Institutions" (№485.17.10.2017). The Ministry of Health has approved "Monitoring Tools in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Pre-School and School Institutions" (Order №01.21 / O 18.01.2018).

3. With the country's strategies, action plans and programs implemented in the reporting period, the condition of supplying the population with qualitative drinking water was significantly improved. The state program of drinking water monitoring and funding of measures has increased. Drinking water quality control system as well as the organization of laboratory analysis was improved. The range of microbiological research of drinking water has been expanded. All this ensured the maintenance of quality of drinking water at one level, in 2016-2018. However, the technical condition of the infrastructure still remains on the agenda, which creates the problem of drinking water quality. In order to improve the situation, the construction and rehabilitation projects of water supply systems are underway. It is expected, that in the coming years, the microbiological pollution indicator of water will decrease.

Taking into consideration that the quality of drinking water supplied to the population is a matter of social importance, it is a priority of the government. It is essential to maintain the target indicators related to the drinking water quality and technical measures for their achievement on the agenda for years 2019-2121.

4. Referring to the issue of sustainable development goals of UN by 2030, it has to be mentioned, that due to the importance of this topic, the matrix of implementation of targets in Georgia by 2030, 6th target has been included: “Security of everyone by sufficient amount and quality of drinking water and basic sanitary conditions”. According to this target (6.1-6.8) the measures for achievement of sufficient amount and drinking water quality and sanitary conditions, have been integrated in state policy documents, strategies, programs and plans, including the “Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health” (2018-2021):
 - Security of safe drinking water of population on national level including institutions;
 - Improvement of Water quality (From X to X^{1%})
 - Number of population without access to drinking water (%)
 - 3.9 3.9.2: Indicator of dangerous water, sanitary conditions, lack of hygiene and WASH services as well as diseases and epidemic outbreaks (reduction from Y to Y ^{1%})
5. Target Indicators in this field were not set in years 2016-2018 according to the protocol, but they’re included in different strategies and operation plans of the country.

II.Reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease (art. 6, para.2 (b))

In last decade, the surveillance information system in Georgia of reporting and notification of incidents and outbreaks of infectious diseases was improved. In particular, reporting to the upper level public health authorities has been performed by any available means of communication, urgently (notification card, telephone, fax, e-mail), within 24 hours from identification of the case. As a result, recording and registration of infectious diseases significantly increased, including those caused by water.

On the basis of normative documents regulating epidemic surveillance in Georgia, investigation of single-time cases of water-borne diseases, with the exception of typhoid, paratyphoid, salmonellosis and shigellosis is not carried out. Reporting is carried out in routine manner once a month, in aggregated form. Complete study of pest holes and the relevant analysis is carried out only in the case of outbreaks. Consequently, in single cases of presumably water-related diseases, identified and registered by epidemic surveillance system, the factor of transfer of infection is not exactly specified. Therefore the role of unreliable drinking-water in spreading of these diseases cannot be excluded. In most cases, laboratory investigations of outbreaks are mainly conducted by the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health.

As a result of implementation of rotavirus vaccination in the country, according to sentinel surveillance data, decrease of rotavirus diarrhoea in children under 5 was recorded.

III. Access to drinking water (art. 6, para.2 (c))

1. Georgia is rich in water resources. There is 15 832 m³ water per year per person (FAO, 2014). The population uses 450-500 million m³ of water for drinking purposes annually, out of which 90% is used by urban and 10% by rural population.

According to the information of National Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (2018), the provision of water for the population is maintained by 9 licensed companies, serving more than 70 cities and 400 villages. Drinking water is supplied by companies to 55.3% of the population on their area of operation and 44.7% is supplied by other systems. 18 cities have non-interrupted 24-hour water supply (Tbilisi, Batumi, Mtskheta, Rustavi, Tianeti, Khoni, Mestia, etc.) other cities are provided water with limits according to time-schedule, caused by the low technical condition of the systems.

In recent years, the indicator of provision of water for the population by time-schedule has improved. If in 2015, the time schedule of water provision was in average 17, 82 hours per day, in 2016 it was 20, 29 hours, in 2018-22, 0 hours. In 2017, in average 169 liters of water was available per person in 24 hours, while in 2018 – 196 liters. According to this indicator, Georgia is on 5th place after Italy, Bulgaria, Croatia and Greece.

2. In recent years, the number of population supplied with drinking water has increased. According to the research of international organizations (WHO/UNICEF/JMP-Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation. UNICEF2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, Investments in Water Supply and Sanitation - OECD-CRC-2015; WHO/UNICEF-2015, GLAAS (2016; 2018); WASH (2016,2018); Statistical Weightings Used for the 2016, Statistical Weightings Used for the 2016 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), WHO Communication Center of Water Resources, Health Protection Cooperation and Risk Management, Bonn University -2016; GeoStat 2016, 2017)), in 2014 the figure of population supplied by relatively high quality drinking water was 98,4% and 1.6% of population was not supplied (0,06 million people i.e. 60 000).

In 2016, this indicator increased by 11% compared to initial data of 2005, and comprised 99%. Indicator for urban population increased by 3%, comprising - 100%, while for rural population it was increased by 16%, resulting in 97-98. According to the evaluation of Millennium development targets, this indicator in villages comprised 100%. Georgia has achieved its Millennium development targets in this part completely; other studies also confirm this (Statistical Weightings used for the 2016 Environmental Performance Index (EPI).

In the year 2017, 67% of population had access to improved drinking water infrastructure (2.5 million) (GeoStat 2017).

If the water supply of population is reviewed in terms of drinking water access index, according to the information from Georgian National Energy and Water Regulatory Commission from 2017, this indicator countrywide is between 0,32-0,65%. Average indicator is 0,46%, which is 0,38 % less compared to overall European indicator (0,84%). Despite this, majority of high mountain settlements of the country do not have central water supply (Development Strategy of High mountainous Settlements (2018).

One of the priorities of Government of Georgia is to achieve social-economic sustainability of the population. Government program “Freedom, Rapid Development and Welfare” was adopted in 2018, the main direction of this program is to continue: construction-rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation systems, as well as cleaning facilities in cities and villages; to achieve 24-hour water supply for 400 000 individuals, develop public health and monitoring system, etc.

Construction / rehabilitation of 306 km water supply network and 22 water supply facility were carried out in accordance with Georgia's Regional Development Program (2017). As a result of the implemented project, the situation on drinking water supply was 79,2 thousand.

Measures for improvement of drinking water supply and its conditions are described in social-economic, agriculture development strategies and plans of the country and regions (Social-Economic strategy of Georgia – “Georgia 2020”, #400, dated 17.06.2014); Strategies of Social-Economic development of Georgian regions (2018-2021 #1292 dated 11.06.2018); National Strategy of Agriculture Development of Georgia 2017-2020 (20.12.2016). These issues are also included in “Third National Action Plan for Environment Protection” (2017-2021) and “Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health” (2018-2021).

3. In the reporting period, the infrastructure of drinking water supply systems as well as the security of the population with drinking water has significantly increased through the strategies, operation plans and programs of the country. Technological processes and management systems of water supply are gradually installed and modified. In this view it is noteworthy to mention the ongoing activities for improvement of infrastructure and water supply systems of preschool and school institutions; As result of the projects implemented in 2015-2017, the 79,2 thousand persons were able to receive improve water supply. Several large scale projects have been implemented in 17 villages of conflict zone and the situation of supplying the internally displaced persons with drinking water has improved. Funding for implementation of measures in this field has increased; it is particularly noteworthy to mention the construction/rehabilitation works of the 300 km water supply system and up to 20 sanitation facilities (activity 2.2.7) according to the Village Rehabilitation Development Plan.

Despite the above-mentioned data, nowadays 1,6% of the population is still not supplied with adequate drinking water systems; this figure for village population comprises 2-3%. Technical conditions of the drinking water infrastructure still remain on the agenda for several settlements and the rehabilitation and construction activities are still ongoing. If the processes continue as planned, it is expected to eliminate the problems existing in this field in full scale.

Considering all above-mentioned and the fact, that the availability of adequate sanitation conditions for the population is a topic of social importance and is a priority of Georgian government, it is crucial that target indicators for improvement of current situation and technical measures for their achievement remain on the Agenda of the coming years 2019-2021.

4. Referring to the issue of sustainable development goals of UN by 2030, it has to be mentioned, that due to the importance of this topic, the measures for achievement of sufficient amount and quality of drinking water and sanitary conditions, have been

integrated in state policy documents, strategies, programs and plans, including the “Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health” (2018-2021).

- Security of population with safe drinking water on national level including institutions;
 - Elaboration and approval of time frame for fulfillment of priority goals, indicators and implementation deadlines according to the protocol;
 - 6.1.1 6.2.1 number of population, having no access to safe drinking water (100%)
 - 3.9 3.9.2: Indicator of dangerous waters, sanitary conditions, lack of hygiene and WASH services as well as diseases and epidemic outbreaks (reduction from Y to Y¹%).
5. Target Indicators in this field were not set in years 2016-2018 according to the protocol, but they’re included in different strategies and operation plans of the country.

IV. Access to sanitation (art. 6, para.2 (d))

1. Considering that Georgia has not ratified the protocol, the target indicator in years 2016-2018 were not set, despite this, it is noteworthy to present information on history of this topic. According to the national statistical data of Georgia (2018) and third national program (2018) on environment protection of Georgia the number of population connected to the sanitary (sewage) systems is increasing annually. In years 2015-2016, this figure was 44,2 and 46,5%, while in 2017- 48,6 %(1.81 million).
2. In recent years, the studies (Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation WHO/UNICEF, JMP 2012, 2014, 2017, Investments in Water supply and sanitation OECD-CRC-2015; WHO/UNICEF 2015; UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking water (GLAAS) 2916, Statistical Weightings used for the 2016; Environmental Performance Index (EPI), Georgian stat 2017 and etc.) show the growth of the number population having access to the improved sanitation conditions. According to these studies, in 2014, 87% of the population was secured with sanitation systems, out of this 95% of urban and 76% of rural population. This indicator has increased in the following years and in 2018 reached 97%, out of this, 96% urban and 97% rural population (Table #2).

Data on Access to Sanitation Conditions for Population (%) Table #2

| Population | Initial Figure 2014 | Current Figure 2018 |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Urban Population | 96 | 96 |
| Rural Population | 91 | 97 |
| Total | 94 | 97 |

Regarding the connection of sanitation system of population to the cleaning structure, according to the data of 2018 of GeoStat, in year 2015, 32,1% of population was connected to the cleaning structure, and in 2016 – 33,9%. In the year 2017 the figure comprised 36,9%. (Table #3).

Table #3

Number of population connected to the cleaning Structure (%)

| Title of component | Years | | |
|---|-------|------|------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Connection to the cleaning structure | 32.1 | 33.9 | 36.9 |
| Connection to mechanical cleaning structure | 28.6 | 29.4 | 31.1 |
| Connection to Biological cleaning structure | 3.3 | 4.3 | 5.3 |
| Connection to complex cleaning structure | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |

Considering that one of the priorities of Georgian government is to improve sanitation services the state program “Freedom, Rapid Development and Welfare” was adopted in 2018. Main direction of the program is the continuation of construction and rehabilitation processes of water supply, sanitation and cleaning structures in urban and rural areas.

Issues related to the improvement of sanitary conditions of population and respective measures are presented in social-economic plans and various strategies of country and regions including “Third National Action Plan for Environment Protection” (2018) and “Second National Action Plan of Environment Protection and Health” (2018. Annex 1. Task 1.4., 1.4.1., 1.4.2.).

3. Considering the above-mentioned, it can be stated that in the reporting period, implementation of country’s strategies, action plans and programs resulted in significant improvement of the infrastructure of respective sanitation system as well as the availability of these systems for population. It is noteworthy to mention also that respective measures were undertaken for the improvement of the infrastructure including preschools and school systems. Several large-scale projects were implemented in 17 conflict zones and the sanitary conditions for internally displaced persons have been significantly improved. Allocation of funds for indicated fields have increased as a result.

Although, the population of the country is gradually obtaining improved sanitation system, overall 3-4% of the population does not yet have access to the improved sanitation systems, out of which

4% urban and 3-7% of rural population. Therefore the technical condition of sanitary infrastructure still remains on the agenda.

Considering all above-mentioned and the fact, that the availability of adequate sanitation conditions for the population is a topic of social importance, also that it is a priority of Georgian government, it is crucial that target indicators for improvement of current situation and technical measures for their achievement remain on the Agenda in the years 2019-2021.

4. Due to the importance of the topic, according to the target 6 (6.1-6.8) of the matrix of implementation of targets, "Third National Action Plan of Environment Protection" (2018), "Second National Action Plan for Environment and Health" (2018) and the strategy for development of high mountainous settlements of Georgia (2018), the following has been envisioned:

- Amendment to the national policy and normative documents on sanitation according to the recommendation of WHO;
 - Elaboration of national priority targets, indicators and time frames according to the protocol and their approval;
 - Security of population on national level with adequate safe sanitation conditions including institutions;
 - 6.1.1 6.2.1 number of population using safe sanitation services (100%);
 - 3.9 3.9.2: Indicator of harmful water, sanitary conditions, lack of hygiene and WASH services as well as diseases and epidemic outbreaks (reduction from Y to Y¹%).
5. Target Indicators in this field, were not set in years 2016-2018 according to the protocol, but they have been included in different strategies and operation plans of the country.

V. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for water supply (art. 6, para.2 (e))

According to the National Food Agency (2019), 70% of the country's population is supplied with centralized water, including 95% of the city's population and 35% of the rural population. There are 1500 water pipelines, including 800 small scale water supply systems. Underground (72%) and superficial waters (32%) are used for water supply. However, despite this, some of the population does not have access to adequate drinking water. This is due to unsatisfactory technical condition of these systems.

The second challenge of the collective and other water supply systems is the large loss of water in the network. In some cases this indicator is more than 60%. This indicator is 4-5 times higher than the average European standard. In 2017 water supply was 705,4 million m³, but the population received 262 million m³ water loss in 443.4 million m³ (63%).

One of the indicators of water efficiency is the number of accidents per network per 100 km per year. According to the Commission on Water Supply Commission, in 2017-2018, this figure was 106 accidents per 100 kilometers of licensed companies.

In order to increase the level of effectiveness of collective and other water supply systems, the Government of Georgia approved the government program "Freedom, Rapid Development and Welfare" in 2018. The main direction of the program is the continuation of construction and rehabilitation processes in water supply systems in towns and villages; by the end of 2020, 400,000 people must be provided with 24 hour water supply.

Within the framework of UN sustainable development goals until the year 2030, the objective of sustainable development in Georgia (6.1.-6.8) is integrated in various strategies, action plans and programs, including "Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health" (2018, Annex 1. Task 1.4., 1.4.1., 1.4.2. ; Task 1.5 1.5.1., 1.5.2., 1.5.3.).

Conclusion: The efficiency of collective systems of water supply in the country is still not suitable for today's requirements. The unsatisfactory technical condition of water supply and distribution networks of residential houses also must be mentioned. This is accompanied by frequent accidents in the system. Overall, this leads to additional losses of water and deterioration of service quality. However, implementation of action strategies and programs will ensure the level of effectiveness of collective and other water supply systems, in view of sustainable development goals. As a result, many of the problems existing nowadays will be resolved.

As for the purpose of determining the targeted indicators, the target indicators in this field are not specified in 2016-2018. However, the level of efficiency of collective and other water supply systems is reflected in various strategies and action plans of the country.

VI. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (e))

Target indicators in this context were not established in the context of the protocol. However, it is reflected in the various strategies, programs and action plans of the country due to the importance of the issue. The same documents define objectives, tasks and relevant measures. The information about the issue is presented in section (IV. Access to Sanitation).

Considering the above-mentioned, it is necessary to keep target indicators for improvement of existing situation on the agenda for years 2019-2021, as well as implement respective measures within the framework of protocol of water and health considering the sustainable development goals.

VII. Application of recognized good practices to the management of water supply (art.6, para.2 (f))

Water resources management in Georgia is carried out by administrative-territorial principle. The "Law on Water", adopted in 1997, has been outdated and cannot respond to today's demands. It regulates only the management of surface water resources and it does not reflect the complex water management issues.

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture has developed a draft law on "Water Resources Management" and several by-laws. The reform in the field of water management system is planned for the future, including the expansion of Underground Monitoring Network and etc. The following documents have been adopted:

- Third National Action Plan for Environment Protection of Georgia (2017-2021);
- Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health (2018-2021);
- EU "EWI+" is processing several river basin management and security plans, etc.

For security of water supply of population and improvement of quality water supply:

- The National Water Supply Regulatory Commission produces licenses for companies. Currently 9 licensed water companies are providing water supply for the population.
- Water and sanitation protection zones are determined in accordance with environmental legislation for water supply systems and water quality protection.
- At initial stage, the processing of various waters supplied to the population is done using the technologies obtained in this field.
- Construction/rehabilitation of the drinking water supply systems is implemented according to the preliminarily elaborated plans.
- The projects are funded by international institutions, as well as state and own sources;
- ISO standards are established in the drinking water quality control field.

The information on implemented projects is presented in chapter 2.1.

It is noteworthy that one of the priorities of the State Concept of the Georgian Public Health Protection System (2014-2020, №724.26.12.2014) adopted in 2014, is "Health in All Policies - State Multidisciplinary Approach". This means the effective coordination mechanisms up to 2020 in areas such as environmental health, water safety, reduction of risk factors, improving the health of people and others. Development of public health system involves the creation of an integrated epidemic surveillance system. This system will be equipped with modern standards, newest laboratories and qualified personnel.

According to the data of the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia and Georgian United Water Supply Company, in 2016-2018, 37 projects have been implemented for the improvement of water supply and sanitation with the aim of establishing best practices. The projects included: construction and rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure in 44 cities and settlements (Abasha, Akhaltsikhe, Aspindza, Bolnisi, Gori, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Poti, etc.). These measures were implemented in 2016 in 10 settlements, in 18 settlements in 2017. In 2018, 12 projects for the construction and rehabilitation of water supply, sewage systems and treatment facilities were started for 11 cities and settlements. The completion of these projects is intended in 2019-2020.

According to the protocol, the target indicators for this field were not established in 2016-2018. However, the necessity to use universally recognized practice of water management is reflected in various strategies and action plans of the country.

As for the issue in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals of 2030, the issue is reflected in the Program for Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Georgia and the

"Second National Environmental and Health Action Plan" (2018-2021), Appendix 1. Task 1.1., 1.2., 1.3.).

VIII. Application of recognized good practice to the management of sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (f))

Target indicators in the context of the protocol were not established. However, the objectives, tasks and relevant measures are defined by the different strategies, programs and action plans of the country, based on the importance of the issue. According to the data of Geostat (2018) and the Third National Program of the Environment Protection (2018), 48.6% of the population (1.81 million people) was connected to the sanitary (sewage) systems in 2017.

According to approaching the road map of EU and Third National Environment Protection Action Program (2018), it is planned to develop a normative act of for "waste water discharge"; "Establishment of the permissible discharge of industrial and urban waste water according to EU criteria"; "Identification of sensitive areas of urban waste water discharge" and more.

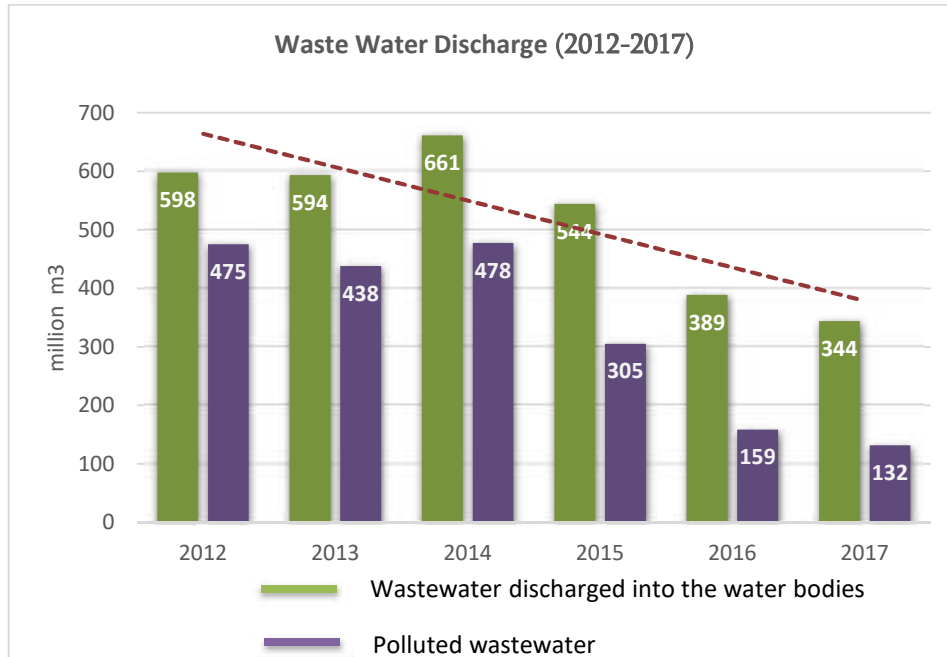
Taking into consideration the significance of the issue, it is necessary that the agenda of 2019-2021 envisions developing targeted indicators related to the improvement of the situation in this area and the implementation of the measures to be achieved in the context of water and health protocol.

IX. Occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater (art. 6, para. 2 (g) (i))

1. According to the protocol in 2016-2018 the target indicators in this field were not set.
2. According to the applicable law, it is prohibited to discharge unprocessed wastewater into surface water objects. Under the legislation, the list of activities subject to ecological expertise is defined. Environmental Impact Assessment reports should include measures, technologies and obligations that are necessary for the treatment and discharge of polluted waters. This is important for the protection of surface water objects from pollution.

In recent years, the volume of waste water discharges in water objects has decreased. The volume of contaminated wastewater has also been reduced. In 2013, this figure was 438.2 million m³ and in 2017 - 131.7 million m³. About 38.3% of waste water discharged in 2017 was polluted. Figure 1 (Geostat (2017)).

Figure 1



However, it should be noted here that due to outdated cleaning facilities in the country the waste water is discharged without cleaning. Biological cleaning structure was functioning only in two cities (Sachkhere and Batumi). In 2018, modern cleaning structure of Gardabani was put into operation. 48.6% of the population is connected to sewage systems (Geostat 2018). Development of sewage systems in villages is carried out in accordance with the National Strategy for Development of Villages in Georgia (2016) and its implementation plan.

According to the Strategy of Development of High Mountain Settlement of Georgia (2018) there are no wastewater treatment facilities in high mountainous areas. Considering the importance of the problem in this field, existing situation and need for necessary improvements are presented in strategies, operation plans and programs of the country; their list is presented in different chapters of this report.

3. Certain legislative-normative base has been created regarding the discharge of

unprocessed wastewater into surface water objects. The list of activities subject to ecological expertise is outlined; Environmental Impact Assessment reports should include measures, technologies and obligations that are necessary for the treatment and discharge of polluted wastewater. According to data from Geostat (2018), the discharge of untreated wastewater is annually reduced. However, it should be noted that the issue does not lose its significance in terms of further development of the legislative base and system infrastructure.

4. Considering that the existing legislation does not fully regulate the frequency of flow of pollutants in the surface water objects as well as preventive measures and mechanisms, it is necessary to elaborate the following considering the Sustainable Development Goals of UN by 2030:

- Visions, policy and strategy for development of this system, with principles and goals in line with the European regulations;

- Institutional mechanisms and management system of flowing waters;
- Management components of the system and related activities;
- Monitoring and quality control mechanisms

According to the article 6, 2g) point i) of Protocol on “Water and Health”, it is necessary to adhere to the elaboration of the project proposals for identification of target indicators regarding the frequency of unprocessed flowing waters for 2019-2021. Also the adoption of the draft law on “Management of Water Resources” will facilitate the introduction of new regulations in this field.

X. Occurrence of discharges of untreated storm water overflows from wastewater collection systems (art. 6, para. 2 (g) (ii))

Household and drainage systems in the cities are independent of each other. The collection and transportation of household waste wastewater to treatment facilities (Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Rustavi, Gardabani, Sachkhere, Batumi) is done by separate systems. Drainage water streams without cleaning in surface water objects with separate system as well.

Taking into consideration the importance of the problem, the need to improve the situation in this field is reflected in country strategies, action plans and programs. The issue is included in the "Third National Action Plan for Environmental Protection (2018)". Furthermore, National Strategy for Development of Villages of Georgia (2016) and its supporting program envisions the improvement of rural infrastructure and regulation of drainage channels.

XI. Quality of discharges of wastewater from wastewater treatment installations (art. 6, para. 2 (h))

According to the Georgian legislation, all physical and legal persons are obliged to protect water resources from pollution. For this purpose, in 2017, the Law "Environmental Assessment Code" was adopted. The Code regulates the types of activities subject to ecological expertise and environmental impact assessment procedures. In addition, respective by-laws/ technical regulations are also adopted regulating this issue.

As for the wastewater quality, most of the populated areas do not have cleaning facilities, which is why polluted wastewater flows in surface water objects. According to the National Environmental Agency data (2017-2018) the surface water objects are contaminated with ammonium nitrogen. Ammonium nitrogen also drips from wastewater treatment plants. In 2017, only 0.2% of wastewater flown to surface waters were cleaned, 5.5% was cleaned by biological method and 31.1% mechanical cleaning (Geostat 2017).

In order to protect surface water objects technical regulation has been adopted in 2018: "The Maximum Permissible Norms for Discharge and Receipt of waters flowing in sewage systems and Polluting Substances" (No. 431.20.08.2018). The technical regulation sets: relations between operators and users, wastewater discharge and receipt procedures, supervision and control mechanisms, etc.

In this context, it is noteworthy to mention the "Road map of harmonization with EU on the process of environmental protection and climate ". The map has 27 activities. Implementation of 10 activities started in 2015, while 17 activities were implemented in 2016. The implementation of the

measures provided by the road map is foreseen by 2021. Out of planned activities it is noteworthy to mention the "Development of the Rule for planning Water Quality Monitoring and Quality Monitoring Program" (Activity 3.8 and 3.13), and elaboration of a normative act for preventing water pollution from agriculture sources and identification of sensitive places for discharge of urban waste water (Activity 3.14. and 3.19.)

In conclusion, it can be stated that the target indicators according to the Water and Health Protocol on the quality of wastewater discharged from the cleaning structures was not set in 2016-2019. However, this issue is widely reflected in the country's strategies and action plans, the list of which is presented in different sections of the report. Issue from the current situation analysis will not lose its importance for next few years. This is also indicated by ongoing and planned international and national projects in the country. However, it is necessary to set target indicators for this field considering the sustainable development goals of the UN in the context of water and health protocol.

XII. Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation or other sanitation installations (art. 6, para.2 (i))

Although the country has normative acts, sanitary rules and norms on "Use of WasteWaters and their residues for irrigation and fertilizing" (#297/N dated 16.08.2001), the secondary use of the waters from collective sanitation systems or other sanitation structures does not take place in the country. There is no concrete state policy with regard to this topic, respectively there is no institutional obligation in this direction. No target indicators for years 2016-2018 have been set in this field.

XIII. Quality of wastewater used for irrigation purposes (art. 6, para.2 (i))

Irrigation of soils in the country is done based on the law on "Irrigation".

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia develops and implements the state policy and programs in this field.

It is noteworthy that before the approval of the 2017-2025 Strategy on Irrigation (2017), "Technical Regulations of the Rules for Exploitation of Irrigation Water Reserves (# 3.03.01.2014) was adopted. The regulation sets the rules of irrigation reservoirs and water protection and its management, water norms, respective recording system, etc.

Georgian strategies of Social-Economic Development (2020) and Irrigation (2017), as well as Rural Development Strategy (2017) envisage improvement of irrigation systems and infrastructure development. However, the current legislation does not include the monitoring of water quality used for irrigation purposes.

XIV. Quality of waters which are used as sources for drinking water (art. 6, para. 2 (j))

Respective legal base for preservation of the drinking water quality in the country has been elaborated. The "Law on Water" and several normative acts regulate the issues like sanitary organization of water supply sources and water protective lines, size of each zone in which the special regime is established, measures, to be taken to ensure water quality protection. Based on

the importance of the issue, new draft technical regulation on "Rules for defining sanitary protection zones of underground water objects" has been developed.

The underground waters are mainly used for drinking water supply. These waters are steadily good quality. There are more than 2000 bore wells for water supply, which have a great deal of debt. However, some of the cities (Tbilisi, Batumi, Borjomi) are used for surface water bodies. Due to the low quality of these waters, they are treated with the appropriate technologies.

The Department of Environment Protection Supervision of the Ministry is in charge of protection of water supply sources. According to the laws on "Health protection" and "Public Health" (2007) the quality standards for drinking water supply sources are set by the Ministry of Health Protection, while the quality control is carried out by the National Food Agency. Since 2006, the centralized Database on Drinking Water has been created in the Agency.

Issues related to the protection of water supply sources of population and their improvement is reflected in the strategies and plans of the country and regions, i.e. National Strategy for Development of Villages of Georgia (2016); The Strategy for Development of High Mountain Settlement in Georgia (2018); "Second National Action Plan of Environmental and Health" (2018) and others.

3. In order to protect the quality of water used for drinking water, the relevant legislative base has been created in the country. Target indicators in years 2016-2019 have not been set according to the Water and Health Protocol. However, this issue does not lose its significance because it should be constantly on the agenda from its high social importance. This is indicated by short and long-term goals and objectives of the country's strategies, programs and action plans, also ongoing and planned international and national projects in the country. Nevertheless, in the future it will be necessary to determine target indicators under water and health protocol, taking into account the sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

XV. Quality of waters used for bathing (art. 6, para.2 (j))

In Georgia, bathing waters are legally regulated (preservation, use, management, quality control, monitoring, etc)on the basis of water legislation as well as by the technical regulations adopted in 2013-2014. However, the concrete list of water objects which can be used for bathing and recreation is not elaborated. According to the "Norms and Rules for Protection of Surface Water Objects from Pollution" (2001), two categories are defined (first category water channels and second category water channels), and 4 levels of pollution (permissible level of pollution, medium level of pollution; high level of pollution).

The first category comprises of water objects used for drinking water supply. Under the second category there are water objects that are used for recreational and sporting purposes.

In order to protect surface water objects from pollution, sanitary and water-resistant strips are determined, where the economic activities are restricted and maximum permissible norms of pollution are limited.

According to the legislation, the National Environmental Agency of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia is a competent body in the field of monitoring the quality of surface water objects including water used for bathing.

According to the Agency (2017, 2018) the number of water objects and control samples is increasing annually. Surface water quality control is carried out systematically according to the relevant plan. In 2015, surveys were conducted at 64 water objects (river / lake) in 116 points. In 2018, water quality studies were conducted in 97 water objects at 166 points. (Table №4)

Studies were conducted on 53 physical-chemical and 4 microbiological parameters (intestinal bacteria, total coliforms, streptococcus, and total quantity of microbes).

Table #4

Dynamics of Quality Control of Surface and Underground Waters

| # | Quantity | Years | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| 1. | Rivers | 22 | 22 | 28 | 32 | 52 | 74 | 74 | 84 |
| | Lakes and Water Reservoirs | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 13 |
| | Control points | 40 | 40 | 44 | 69 | 116 | 149 | 154 | 166 |
| 2. | Control Points on Underground Waters | - | - | - | 2 | 16 | 40 | 51 | 55 |

In Georgia high concentration of ammonium nitrogen pollution is constantly observed in the following rivers: Suramula, Kubistkali (Batumi), Bartskhana (Batumi), Choloki, Mendiskali (Batumi), Rioni, Mtkvari (Khashuri, Kareli, Zahesi, Tbilisi, Gachiani), Vere Tbilisi), Gldaniskhevi (Tbilisi), Dighmula (Tbilisi) and Kazretula. Contamination with ammonium nitrogen is also observed in lakes: (Paravani, Khanchali, evening lake, Lisi and Lopota).

The constant high levels of pollution with heavy metals are recorded in the Kazretula and Mashavera rivers. Rivers Khvirila and Maltakhva are polluted the most with manganese.

It should be noted that the Ministry of Health Protection of Georgia has developed the draft Technical Regulation for "Bathing Water Quality", which is under review currently.

In conclusion, it should be noted that in 2016-2018, the quality control of surface water objects has been significantly increased (including bathing waters), also the number of samples and control points taken for quality control. New standards for research of heavy metals and other informative indicators have been introduced. However, the monitoring program does not fully cover other surface water objects that can be used for bathing and active holidays.

Taking into consideration the importance of the problem, the need to improve the situation in this field is reflected in respective strategies and programs. By the "Third National Environmental

Action plan" (2018) and "Second National Environment and Health Action Plan" (Activity 1.5.5) it is planned to identify the recreational and bathing sites and conduct the monitoring of water quality. It is necessary also to increase public awareness level about pollution of bathing waters.

Based on the social significance of the issue, it is necessary to further realize the issue and determine the relevant target indicators according to the protocol after adoption of the new law on water management, considering sustainable development goals of the UN 2030 period.

XVI. Quality of waters used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish (art. 6, para.2 (j))

Water quality control mechanisms that are used for breeding and preservation of aquaculture, mollusks and crustaceans are not foreseen by the legislation.

XVII. Application of recognized good practice in the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing (art. 6, para.2 (k))

Considering the significance of the problem, the necessity of improving the existing situation in this field is also reflected in the "Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health" (2018-2021). It is planned to establish monitoring system on water quality of bathing basins (Activity 1.5.4).

XVIII. Identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites (art. 6, para.2 (l))

1.- 2. Historically contaminated places in Georgia are a serious problem for the environment and health of the population. This problem is not yet resolved. The sources of pollution are: expired and unsuitable industrial and agricultural chemical substances; Illegal landfills; former Arsenic processing factories, the ruins and tombs of their warehouses of waste in Lentekhi (Tsana) and Ambrolauri (Uravi) municipalities.

Therefore, these issues were one of the main directions of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture in 2016-2018. The Ministry is in charge of the management of waste and chemical substances. In order to introduce modern system of elimination and management of existing problems, the "Waste Management Code" is in force since 2015. The Code is based on the requirements of the EU Directives and Regulations. Following national strategic documents have been adopted in the mentioned field:

- National Strategy for Reduction of Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear Threats (# 164.14.02.2014) and the Action Plan for Implementation of this Strategy (2015-2019);
- "National Strategy for Waste Management 2016-2030" (# 160.01.04.2016). The strategy determines: waste management policies and strategic directions in the country for a 15-year period; Implementation of the obligations under the Association Agreement;
- National Action Plan for Waste Management Strategy 2016-2020 ". The plan includes measures to fulfil the goals and tasks defined by the Strategy within 5 years;

- "Third National Action Plan for Environment Protection (2018) Part 5 and 6 (Management of Waste and Chemical Substances) and tasks of Action Plan of (Activity 5.5 and 6.5.);
- "Second National Action Plan of Environment and Health" (2018), Section 3.4. Strategic task # 4 (prevention of diseases caused by chemical substances). The medium-term objectives of strategic interventions for performing this task (4.1.-4.6);
- Action plan for supervision over Industrial and Consumer Market (# 642, 30.12.2016), considering the regulation of supervisory system of security;
- Strategy for Rural Development of Georgia (2015) and its 2017-2018 Action Plans (Activity 3. Task 3.1 Development of Sustainable Rural Waste Management System, etc.

More than 10 normative acts/regulations have been elaborated and adopted.

Following projects were implemented in years 2016-2018, in the field of analysis of waste and chemical substances in the country and improvement of the current situation:

- "Support to the implementation of waste integrated management system and capacity increase in Georgia" (2016-2019.Sida) Goal: Supporting the introduction of inventory procedures for hazardous waste, sharing of practical knowledge and experience;
- "Introduction of Waste Management Technologies in Regions (2017-2020, USAID). Objective: Introduction of integrated system of waste management and processing (3,399,972.75 USD);
- Introduction of "Expanded Producer's Principle "(" 2017-2018.UNDP / Sida ") defined by "Waste Management Code". Objective: To raise awareness of the concept of the expanded liability of the manufacturer and the promotion of waste management (WEEE) in Georgia (138, 469 USD);
- Technical Assistance to Improve Waste Management Systems in Georgia" (2017-2019, EU). Objective: to assist Georgia in the development of waste management system, taking into account the requirements of the EU and Georgia Association Agreement (1 400 000 EUR);
- Project of Georgia for Hazardous Waste Management. Feasibility Study (EBRD, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development). Objective: Assessment of the possibility of financing the waste management project (400 000 USD);
- "Creation of Capacity for Safe Management of Chemical Substances" Czech Development Agency (2017-2020, CZDA, DEKONTA). Objective: To bring the management system of chemical substances into line with the European model, elaborate legislation and enhance capacity at national level (14 500 000 CZK).

As a result of the support of international organizations and implemented projects waste management and chemical management system in the country is gradually improving. The following has been achieved: improvement of the procedures for treatment of outdated, hazardous, unsuitable and prohibited pesticides and waste; introduction of integrated management system of waste and chemical substances; resolving issues related to landfills existing on the shores of surface water objects; increase of public awareness, and etc.

Considering that historically polluted places are still a serious problem in the country and are not it has not been resolved, " Arsenic Waste Management" project has been implemented in Georgia. In the framework of the project, rayons of Ambrolauri and Lentekhi were evaluated and the plan for safe discharge of the waste was elaborated.

In Village Tsana of Lentekhi municipality (Tsan 1,2,3), project documentation for arrangement of places for treatment of harmful substances containing arsenic, was elaborated. Topo geodesic, engineering-geological and hydrogeological research of the project areas was conducted; the evaluation of the technical condition of the 20 km long road connecting Tsana-1 and Tsan-3 was conducted. Environmental Impact Assessment Report was prepared.

In the framework of the project, two discharge spots were constructed in Ambrolauri municipality (Urava 1, Uvra 3). In the Lentekhi municipality the territories were allocated and the fencing was carried out (see 2,3.). 8 contaminated buildings were demolished. Two new discharge spots were arranged for placement of dangerous arsenic industrial wastes. Additional works are carried out on Uravi 4 site by Ambrolauri municipality. Methodological materials were elaborated in order to enhance the capacity of municipality in this field; methodic materials for waste management plans were elaborated.

It has to be mentioned that, in order to ensure the safety of population in terms of environment and health, certain activities including waste management are ongoing in the country, which will also help find the polluted areas and spots and implement respective preventive measures.

3. Legislative-normative base for this field has been created to some extent. Through the international and national projects respective measures are undertaken for treatment of historically polluted areas of the country; however the issue is still very significant in terms of further modernization of legislative base as well as development of respective infrastructure for chemical waste management.

Certain target indicators have been set according to the national strategies and action plans and some of them are accomplished. Further industrial and infrastructural projects may result in various levels of containment in future, which may need further approach for elaboration of new targets and implementation of respective tasks in future.

4. It should be noted that the goals of sustainable development (SDG) play an important role in the formation of national policies. One of the SDG's tasks (11.6) is to improve waste management. In order to achieve this task, Georgia has identified waste collection (100%) and correct management (80%) by 2030. The issue does not lose its actuality in the future. This indicates the ongoing and planned international and national projects in the country.

5. In the context of the Water and Health Protocol, the targeted indicators for 2016-2018 were not set for finding most polluted areas and their treatment. However, the purpose of SDG (management of waste and chemical substances) and protocol (discovering most polluted areas and their treatment) is fully envisaged in national strategies and action plans. Implementation of strategies and action Plans are underway.

XIX. Effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources (art. 6, para.2 (m))

In recent years, tasks for reform of social-economic, ecological policies, legislative and institutional reforms were undertaken in Georgia. However, this process has not yet been completed. The state structures are working towards harmonization of sectorial legislation with the EU legislation as well as introduction of international standards and best practices. Their

work also covers the tasks for improvement of water management and security of safe environment for human health.

The Georgian law on “Water “adopted in 1997 is outdated and does not reflect today’s needs. Water resource management is carried out according to the administrative-territorial principle. Several ministries and agencies participate in this process (Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture, Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Labour, Health and Social Security; Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development; Municipal development fund; Georgian National for Energy and Water Regulatory Commission).

Control of Water Resource protection and Use is carried out by Environmental Surveillance Department of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture. The sanction levels for breach of environmental legislation are determined by relevant laws.

Elaboration of water protection tasks for industrial and other purposes are developed and implemented within the framework of Environmental Impact Assessment Projects. Public involvement takes place during public discussions of environmental impact assessment projects for construction and exploitation of industrial and other facilities.

According to the law, as of January 1, 2019, all water users have to submit a statistical registration form for water use to the Ministry. Information on wastewater flows and discharge of the pollutants are presented in the forms. The data undergo processing and is sent further to Geostat and is published on web pages of the Ministry and GeoStat.

Monitoring of surface and underground waters is carried out by the National Environment Agency of the Ministry. Monthly and annual results are published on the Agency's website. The dynamics of monitoring carried out on the quality of surface and underground waters is presented in Table #4.

According to the monitoring results, most of the surface water objects of Georgia satisfy the water quality standards. However, as mentioned above (Chapter XV, quality of water used for bathing) in several rivers and lakes, the water is constantly polluted with ammonium nitrogen, heavy metals and manganese.

According to the current legislation, one of the areas of water resources protection is the environmental impact assessment by the bodies subject to ecological expertise, which should reflect the issues on protection of water objects.

Protection of water resources from pollution is also carried out by the technical regulations adopted by the Government of Georgia for determining the quality of surface and underground standards and by supervision of these standards. The Law on Water (1997) establishes the legal norms for protection of water objects from pollution, while the Law on “Fossil” is applicable for the underground waters and lays down the requirements for their protection.

Georgian legislation on water determines the categories of water use, while the hygienic classification of water objects is adopted according to the pollution level. Integrated management of water resources is yet in the form of the draft law.

Georgia has taken significant steps to strengthen cooperation in the sphere of Transboundary waters. Within the framework of National Dialogue on integrated management of water

resources, with the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Economic Commission (UNECE), Georgia is working on draft bilateral agreement with its neighbouring countries, on protection and sustainable use of water resources of Trans boundary river basins. There is a focus on this issue also in the 2015 memorandum of Georgia and the European Union (activity 2), national political dialogue on integrated water management and in the "Road Map of Harmonization with the European Union in the field of Environment Protection and Climate-related Activities" (Activity: 3.4 and 3.18).

Identification of the water protection and sanitary lines of surface water objects (including the water used for bathing) and their treatment is under the competence of local self-government bodies.

The draft law on "Water Resource Management" envisions major reform in the fields of protection, management and use of water resources. In order to pass the reforms, package of respective subordinate normative acts are also prepared. The adoption of this package will facilitate the processes like transfer to the system of basin management of water resources, elaboration of basin management plans, further development of monitoring system, modification of cooperation and institutional mechanisms between the countries, etc. The revision of the legislative package with public participation took place on 5th and 18th of September, 2018, also within the framework of media tour.

The country now has "Third National Action Plan of Environment Protection" (2017-2021). Chapter 3 of the plan presents the following issues related to protection of water resources and time frames of implementation:

- Establishment of an effective water management system (adoption of the draft law on water resources management - 3.5. (1.1), definition of procedures for development basin management plans, elaboration and approval of other respective plans (1.3., 1.6), creation of basin management system (1.4) Improvement of statistical accounting system using (GIS) (1.5.), Establishment of basin management consulting – coordination councils in 1.7);
- Protection of water resources from pollution and their sustainable use (determination of industrial and urban waste water norms according to the EU criteria (2.1); identification of sensitive places for urban waste water discharge (2.2); construction/rehabilitation of cleaning structure for waste water in selected (10) settlements (2.3); identification of water objects under the pollution risk with agricultural nitrates and discovering the nitrate sensitive zones, elaboration of respective measures (2.5);
- Completion of quantity and quality monitoring system of water resources (introduction of new standard for surface water quality (3.1)0; enhancement of the surface and underground water quality monitoring network (3.2); elaboration of the quality monitoring program (3.4).

Effective Regulation, use, protection and utilization of water resources is also facilitated by:

- Strategy of Rural Development of Georgia and its operation plans for years 2017-2018 (tas 3. Activity 3.1 improvement of water resource management in rural areas).

Considering the above-mentioned, it can be noted that Georgia has made considerable progress in regulation, utilization, protection and use of water resources and regulation of these issues on legislative level as well as in practice:

- Respective legislative base has been created, however it is necessary to work on its modification and harmonization to European legislation;
- The level of execution of existing legislation determines the efficiency of regulation, protection and use of water resources;
- Normative acts determine categories of water use, hygienic classification based on the level of pollution is adopted;
- Range of sanitary and water protective zones are determined;
- Quantity of surface water objects subject to water quality control is annually increasing;
- Intentions for improvement of the legislative and practical spheres of regulation, protection, use and utilization system of water resources is reflected in the “Second National Environment Protection Action Plan” (2018) and “Second National Action Plan for Environment and Health” (2018), Agriculture development strategy (2017) and operation plans.

Currently, 2 projects are carried out in Georgia: Kura-2 - Advancing IWRM across the Kura river basin through implementation of the transboundary agreed actions and national plans (2016-2020). The project envisions enhancement of national capacity for implementation of integrated water resource management in river Mtkvari basin and EU “Water Initiative (EUWI) Plus for Eastern Partnership” (2016-2020). The project envisages improvement of legislative and regulatory framework for the EU Water Framework Directive, Integrated Water Management, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The project also foresees the development and implementation of river basin management plans as according to the Water Framework Directive of EU.

3. In recent years, measures have been taken to reform social-economic and ecological policies in Georgia. The relevant legislative base was created, however, despite the measures taken, reforms and institutional arrangements have not yet been completed. It is necessary to update the legislative base of water in line with EU legislation. The adoption of the draft law on "Water Resources Management" will improve the issues related to protection, use and management of water resources in the country, also institutional reform and quality monitoring.

With the aim of increasing the efficiency of regulation, protection, use and utilization of water resources, identification of new target indicators with respective measures for implementation must be planned. It is necessary to envision the requirements of the new law on “Water Resources Management” and sustainable development goals of UN for 2030.

4. As a conclusion it is noteworthy to mention that management, protection and development of water resources is a priority of social-economic development and public healthcare in the country, which should be permanently on the Agenda. According to the Article 6, point 2 m) of “Water and Health Protocol” the target indicators and their implementation measures should remain on the Agenda, considering sustainable development goals for 2030.

5. Target indicators according to the protocol, in 2016-2018 were not set, however the issues are reflected in different strategies and action plans of the country.

XX. Additional national or local specific targets

Additional concrete target indicators on national and local levels were not set.

Part three

Common indicators¹

I. Quality of the drinking water supplied

1. Context of the data

According to the data of Georgia's Regional Development Strategy (2015), Geostatic (2017), Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (2017) and Georgian Rural Development Strategy (2017), the number of people connected to the water supply systems is 67% (2.5 million people). According to the water supply system, 56% of households had access to the centralized water supply systems. 44% of the population is provided by other local water supply systems, out of which 21.1% have water pipes in yards or district; 15.8% have wells in yards or in the districts; 7.5% - natural water source in the yard or in the district.

Considering this, according to the Government Program (2018) it is planned to continue the construction and rehabilitation processes of water supply systems in cities and villages.

The analysis of drinking water quality includes: water pump head works, water purification systems and the point where users take water. Quality of drinking water is controlled by "Technical Regulation of Drinking Water Quality" (2014). There is also a normative act "Hygienic Requirements for No centralized Drinking Water Quality" (2001).

According to the Law on Public Health (2007) and "Regulation on the Quality of Drinking Water" (2013), state monitoring body conducts inspection, elaborates monitoring scheme of drinking water quality as well as the quantity of samples for inspection and respective parameters. The National Food Agency of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia is the monitoring body. Internal laboratory control is carried out by the operator companies. The legislation also permits to conduct external laboratory audits of drinking water quality by independent accredited laboratories.

It can be stated that over past years the organization of monitoring system and laboratorial research of drinking water quality has improved, but the problem of technical condition still remains on the agenda. As drinking water quality is still very important in social context, it has to remain on the agenda and as a priority of the country in the near future.

2. Bacteriological Quality

According to the information of National Food Agency (2019), drinking water pollution in the country was between 42,3 - 47.2% in 2016-2018. 97% of non-compliance with drinking water quality norms was due to microbiological parameters. According to the analysis on the pollution of drinking water with E. coli, the pollution rate was almost on the same level in 2017-2018. If the

¹ In order to allow the analysis of trends for all Parties under the Protocol, wherever possible please use 2005 — the year when Protocol was enforced — as the baseline year.

level of pollution in 2015 was 43%, in 2017 this figure was 31% and in 2018 -34%. This figure is due to the condition of the water supply system.

Table 5.

| <i>Parameter</i> | <i>Area/category</i> | <i>Baseline value (2005)</i> | <i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015)</i> | <i>Current value (2018)</i> |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <i>E. coli</i> | Total | 25.0 | 26 | 34 |
| | Urban | | | |
| | Rural | | | |
| Additional parameter 1: Salmonella | Total | - | - | 0 |
| | Urban | | | |
| | Rural | | | |
| Additional parameter 2: Streptococcus facialis | Total | - | - | 29,9 |
| | Urban | | | |
| | Rural | | | |
| Additional parameter 3:Colifagus | Total | - | - | 0 |
| | Urban | | | |
| | Rural | | | |

3. Chemical Quality

5. Please report on the percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for chemical water quality with regard to the following parameters:

The National Food Agency has identified six municipalities (Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Chiatura, Samtredia, Khoni), where the analysis on indicators such as arsenic, bullet, fitter, nitrates, boron, cadmium, manganese, nickel, Copper, zinc, iron was added to the selected indicative parameters. This was due to the location of powerful industrial enterprises in some regions, considering the potential threat of water pollution with polimetals and high indication of oncological diseases.

In 2016-2018, flowing water samples were tested: arsenic -340 samples, bullet-336, and fluorine-188. None of them were found in any sample. In addition, 3 chemical parameters were selected (cadmium - 191 samples, manganese-146 samples and copper -200 samples) for analyses (being the priority on national and local levels), but they were not found in the results.

| | | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| (a) | Arsenic | 99/0 | 117/0 | 124/0 |
| (b) | Fluoride | 149/0 | 20/0 | 19/0 |
| (c) | Lead | 129/0 | 66/0 | 141/0 |
| (d) | Nitrate. | 427/0 | 62/0 | 96/0 |

6. Additional chemical parameters were not determined, as there was no need.

II. Outbreaks and incidence of infectious diseases related to water

II. Outbreaks and incidence of infectious diseases related to water

Infections associated with food and water in Georgia

Table 6.

| | 2005 Year | | 2015 Year | | 2018 Year | |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| | Abs. The number | incidents for 100000 populations | number | incidents for 100000 populations | Abs. The number | incidents for 100000 populations |
| Shigelosis | 310 | 7,3 | 1158 | 31,0 | 589 | 15,8 |
| Salmonellosis (A02) | 344 | 7,9 | 100 | 2,7 | 302 | 8,2 |
| Typhoid fever (A01.0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Legionellosis | N.D | | N.D | | N.D | |
| A Vir Hep (B15) | 889 | 20,5 | 55 | 1,4 | | |
| Vir Hep E (B17.2) | N.D | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Enterohemorrhagic Escherichioses (A04.3) | 787 (A04.4) | 18,2 | 12 | 0,32 | 63 | 1,7 |
| Probabile infection daiarea (A09) | 7431 | 171,6 | 30501 | 817,8 | 18497 | 497,6 |

Note: 2012 end 2016 YY. Due to the amendment to regulations and regulations of transmitted diseases in Georgia, 2005. No comparison with data.

III Access to Drinking Water

Indicators of drinking water are presented in part two of 3rd chapter of this report, but the data are also presented here in respective format.

Table 7.

| <i>Percentage of population with access to drinking water</i> | <i>Baseline value (2005)</i> | <i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015)</i> | <i>Current value (2018)</i> |
|---|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Total | 89 | 98 | 100 |
| Urban | 97 | 100 | 100 |
| Rural | 81 | 97 | 100 |

In 2015-2017, the situation of drinking water supply increased by 79,2 thousand people. In 2016, 99% of the population was supplied with drinking water, including - 100% in the cities and 97-98% in villages. According to evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals (2015), this figure was 100% in rural areas. This is also confirmed by other studies (Statistical Weightings Used for the 2016 Environmental Performance Index (EPI)).

Considering the above-mentioned, improvement of water supply infrastructure in urban and rural areas, construction - rehabilitation processes and improvement of infrastructure by 2020 as well as providing 1.6% of the population with quality drinking water, is one of the priorities of the Government of Georgia. The agenda also includes improvement of drinking water infrastructure and quality of drinking water supply in schools.

Estimates provided by the WHO/United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation. *JMP definitions are available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories>.*

National estimates. *Please specify how “access” is defined and what types of drinking-water supplies are considered in the estimates in your country.*

In particular, please specify if the above percentage on “access to drinking water” refers to access to (tick all applicable):

- Improved drinking water sources (as per JMP definition)
- Supplies located on premises
- Supplies available when needed
- Supplies that provide drinking water free from faecal contamination

IV. Access to Sanitation

Indicators on accessibility to drinking water is presented in chapter 4, second part of the report, the data below are presented in respective format.

The studies conducted over the past years show that the indicators on access of population to the sanitary conditions has increased. The number of population having sanitary conditions in 2015 was 86%, the figure reached 97% in 2018, out of which 96% is for urban population and 97% for rural. Table 8.

| <i>Percentage of population with access to sanitation</i> | <i>Baseline value (2005)</i> | <i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015)</i> | <i>Current value (2018)</i> |
|---|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Total | 94 | 86 | 97 |
| Urban | 96 | 95 | 96 |
| Rural | 91 | 76 | 97 |

Estimates provided by JMP. *JMP definitions are available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories>.*

- National estimates. Please specify how “access” is defined and what types of sanitation facilities are considered in the estimates in your country.

In particular, please specify if the above percentage on “access to sanitation” refers to access to (tick all applicable):

- Improved sanitation facilities (as per JMP definition)
- Facilities not shared with other households
- Facilities from which excreta is safely disposed in situ or treated off site

V. Effectiveness of Management, protection and use of freshwater resources

1. Water quality

The information on the effectiveness, regulation, protection and use of water resources as well as fresh waters, is presented in the second part of the report (Chapter XIX). However, according to the form, it has to be mentioned that European classification is not yet adopted in Georgian according to the Water Framework Directive. Accordingly, the information on the condition of surface waters could not be presented according to the format and tables determined for this section. The classification of water objects in accordance with the EU Water Directive will be introduced after the adoption of the Draft Law on “Water Resources Management”.

(b) For other countries

(i) Status of surface waters

Table 9.

| Percentage of surface water falling under class ^a | Baseline value (2005) | Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015) | Current value (2018) |
|--|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| I | - | - | - |
| II | - | - | - |
| III | - | - | - |
| IV | - | - | - |
| V | - | - | - |
| Total number/volume of water bodies classified | | No classification adopted | - |
| Total number/volume of water bodies in the country | | No classification adopted | - |

(ii) Status of groundwaters

Table 10.

| Percentage of groundwaters falling under class ^a | Baseline value (2005) | Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015) | Current value (2018) |
|---|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| I | - | - | - |
| II | - | - | - |
| III | - | - | - |

| <i>Percentage of groundwaters falling under class^a</i> | <i>Baseline value (2005)</i> | <i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015)</i> | <i>Current value (2018)</i> |
|---|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| IV | - | - | - |
| V | - | - | - |
| Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified | No classification | No classification | No classification |
| Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country | No classification | No classification | No classification |

As of January 1, 2016 nineteen (19) water point units were incorporated in state hydrogeological monitoring network for monitoring of drinking ground waters. For expansion of the network, the number of stations was increased by 21 in 2016, by 11 in 2017, and by 4 in 2018. Respectively, the National Environmental Agency carries out quantitative and qualitative monitoring of ground waters at 55 water points (49 boreholes, 6 springs).

Local population constantly uses the majority of the monitoring network water points for drinking purposes. Because of deficit of drinking water in a number of settlements (that mostly is not connected with natural deficit of water), the population individually extracts drinking water from ground water boreholes. Respectively, important components for drinking ground water are defined in samples from monitoring water points, and bacteriological analyses are done as well.

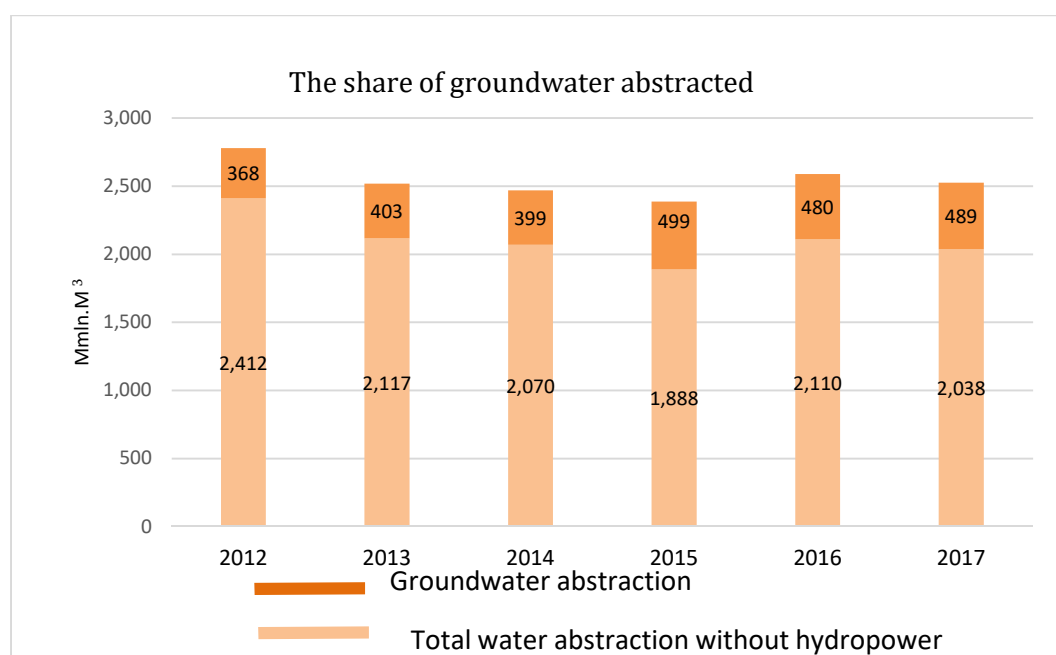
According to monitoring results, the quality of drinking water used by population is in correspondence with normative thresholds established by Technical Regulation on Drinking Water of Georgia. During the monitoring period, change of chemical-microbiological index/figure is registered in water of some boreholes, which is sub-artesian and is not used for drinking, however, taking into consideration their natural geological-hydrogeological location, are important for definition of ground water status in the future.

As for information regarding the status of ground water (Template for summary reports, Part Three –Common Indicators, Article V - Effectiveness of management, protection and use of freshwater resources), at the moment it is impossible to define ground water bodies under the risk and determine vulnerable zones according to EU Water Framework Directive because of insufficient number of monitoring water points (the monitoring was renewed only in 2013 at 2 water points). It will be possible only in case of monitoring network expansion and integrated management of ground water resources.

2. Water use

In years 2015-2017 the use of surface and underground waters was almost on the same level. The tendency of abstraction and use of fresh waters (including underground waters) for years 2015-2017 is presented in the table below (Geostat 2018).

Figure 2.



Although Georgia is rich in water resources, the exploitation index on the national level is stable. In 2005 it was 1.45%, while in 2007 -2.56% (FAO of the United Nations 2010, AQUASTAT online database, Water use, by sector and by source, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy, viewed 15th May, 2011), in 2011 - 2.43%, 3.7% in 2014 and 3.0% in 2017.

Table 11.

| Water exploitation index | Baseline value (2005) | Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015) | Current value (2017) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| Agriculture | 0.6 | 2.4 | 2.0 |
| Industry ^a | 0.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| Domestic use ^b | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.0 |

^a These indicators include water consumption for energy purposes

^b These indicators only mean water supply for utility systems

Part four

Water-related disease surveillance and response systems

1. In accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Protocol:

Has your country established comprehensive water-related disease surveillance and early warning systems according to paragraph 1 (a)?

YES NO IN PROGRESS

Has your country prepared comprehensive national or local contingency plans for responses to outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease according to paragraph 1 (b)?

YES NO IN PROGRESS

Do relevant public authorities have the necessary capacity to respond to such outbreaks, incidents or risks in accordance with the relevant contingency plan according to paragraph 1 (c)?

YES NO IN PROGRESS

On the basis of normative documents regulating epidemic surveillance in Georgia, investigation of single-time cases of water-borne diseases, with the exception of typhoid, paratyphoid, salmonellosis and shigellosis is not carried out. Reporting is carried out in routine manner once a month, in aggregated form. Complete study of pest holes and the relevant analysis is carried out only in the case of outbreaks.

Part five

Progress achieved in implementing other articles of the Protocol

Not relevant.

Part six

Thematic part linked to priority areas of work under the Protocol

1. Water, sanitation and hygiene in institutional settings

WASH activity-Georgia is co-leader with Hungary and Moldova -Georgia is involved in strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools in European Region. In future Georgia is willing to continue co-leading in WASH activity in institutional settings. NCDC is strongly involved in drafting process of WHO recommendations and strategies.

Situation with provision of public schools' students with drinking water and proper sanitary conditions is also unsatisfactory, which is evidenced by the findings of research on drinking water supply and sanitary-hygienic conditions of the country's 600 public schools, conducted by the National Agency for Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development with financial and technical support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2013. As well as studies conducted by the Office of the Public Defender (2018). As well as research conducted by the Office of the Public Defender in 92 schools (2018).

It was found that situation at schools is currently inadequate in regard to the International Standard of Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

For further information see "Survey of water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in public schools"
<https://www.unicef.org/georgia/reports/survey-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-conditions-public-schools>

The WASH technical regulations for schools was developed and submitted to the Government of Georgia for the approval. Status: adoption is pending.

The monitoring framework of WASH in Schools was developed and tested for integration into the Education Management Information System (EMIS). Status: the integration of the WASH monitoring framework into EMIS is pending.

The national guidelines on WASH for preschools was developed and approved by the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs through the Ministerial Decree N01-172/o on July 28, 2016.

The WASH technical regulations for preschools was developed and approved by the government of Georgia through the government resolution N 485 of October 27, 2017.

Special report Public Defender to improve the state of water supply, sanitation and hygiene in schools, submitted to the government of the country (N10-2/4462. 18/04/2019. "Access to Water and Sanitation in Public Schools of Georgia. Special Report Punlic Deffender's Office ofGeorgia 2018).

Sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in health care facilities (HCF) are critical for providing safe, quality health care in Georgia. Without WASH services in HCF we will not reach the goal of universal access to WASH, or achieve a number of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including universal health coverage, ending preventable newborn deaths and reducing maternal mortality. Safely managed WASH services in HCFs are essential to patients' health and in ensuring quality of care, the prevention and control of infections, tackling anti-microbial resistance (AMR) and improving the environmental sustainability of health systems.

According to the legislation of the country, all medical facilities should have a source of drinking water supply:

-) This condition in the inpatient facility is the permit condition and is controlled by the State Regulation Agency for Medical Activities, which means that if the facility does not meet this condition, the permission of the inpatient medical facility will not be accepted;
-) All medical institutions in Georgia are private. Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs and LEPL State Regulation Agency for Medical Activities are responsible for licensing/permission/notification and control of these facilities. WASH conditions are among the licensing/permission/notification requirements; Control (selective control) of WASH's conditions is provided by the Agency. If medical facility does not satisfy WASH's conditions, it is a reason of penalties;
-) For the high risk outpatient service (surgery, dermatology, venereology, dentistry, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency, radiology, dialysis, infectious diseases, phthiisology, endoscopy, immunization) provider facilities provide WASH conditions in compliance with the technical regulations and are controlled by the State Regulation Agency for Medical Activities, which means that all such outpatient facilities must have a drinking water supply; Monitoring of WASHs conditions in Georgia is conducted in the mode of assessment of the functioning of the infection control system in inpatient medical institutions. Monitoring is coordinated by the Department of Health of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs in conjunction with NCDC. Monitoring is carried out by the method of supporting surveillance;
-) Within the scope of infectious control monitoring, the Ministry has examined 66 establishments in 2017 out of which 53 clinics (80%) fully satisfied all the criteria for Water Supply (The assessment provides for drinking water quality, water supply, water supply points, reserve water supply issues);

As for the only source of drinking quality water supply, this criterion has been satisfied by all institutions (66) -100%.

There is no information about the situation in 779 rural outpatient facilities, where 1,300 rural doctors are employed. These institutions also have the requirements, but monitoring of the WASH conditions fulfilment is not yet implemented.

-) Inpatient facilities should provide 100% of waste management. In 2017, the monitoring was carried out in 66 inpatient facilities, out of which 54 clinics (82%) fully satisfied all the criteria for waste management.
-) In 2017, the monitoring was carried out in 66 inpatient facilities, out of which 49 clinics (74%) fully satisfied all the criteria for the cleanliness of the rooms in the facility (criteria provide protocols for the general cleaning plan, sort inventory marking and storing issues). It should also be in all high risk outpatient facilities, but monitoring has not been implemented . For further information see <https://washdata.org/monitoring/health-care-facilities>

5.If yes, please provide reference to main relevant national policy(ies) or programme(s).

Resolution #400 of the Government of Georgia dated June 17, 2014 on “ Social-economic Development strategy of Georgia “Georgia 2020” and several measures related to it”

<http://www.georgia-ccm.ge/wp-content/uploads/GoG-Irdinance-400-Eng1.pdf>

2. Has the situation of WASH in schools been assessed in your country?

YES NO IN PROGRESS

3. Has the situation of WASH in health-care facilities been assessed in your country?

YES NO IN PROGRESS

4. Do approved policies or programmes include actions (please tick all that apply):

To improve WASH in schools

To improve WASH in health-care facilities

5. The issue is reflected in the "Second National Action Plan for Environment and Health" (2018). As well as in the program of implementation of sustainable loom targets in Georgia (matrix) up to 2030.

2. Safe management of drinking-water supply

6. Is there a national policy or regulation in your country, which requires implementation of risk-based management, such as WHO water safety plans (WSPs), in drinking water supply?

YES NO IN PROGRESS

However, the technical regulation of drinking water (2013) provides mechanisms for monitoring the quality of drinking water, as well as the development and implementation of appropriate measures to ensure the safety of drinking water.

In addition, the problem of safe drinking water is reflected in various government plans for socio-economic development, in the “National Action Plan for Environment and Health” (NEHAP-2). And also in the plan of achieving the goal of sustainable development of Georgia

Table 11.

| <i>Percentage of population</i> | <i>Current value (specify year)</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total | - |

3. Equitable access to water and sanitation

Has the equity of access to safe drinking-water and sanitation been assessed?

YES NO IN PROGRESS

10. Do national policies or programmes include actions to improve equitable access to water and sanitation (please tick all that apply):

- To reduce geographical disparities
- To ensure access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
- To keep water and sanitation affordable for all

In such a plan, an overall assessment was not carried out. However, questions about the implementation of action to ensure more uniform access to water and sanitation are reflected in various government plans for socio-economic development, in the “National Environment and Health Action Plan” (NEHAP-2). And the goal of sustainable development of Georgia These documents provide for the implementation of actions to ensure more equal access to water and sanitation.

Part seven Information on the person submitting the report

The following report is submitted on behalf of Georgia
Alexander Mindorashvili:

E-mail: a.mindorashvi@gmail.com; aleksandre.Mindorashvili@mepa.gov.ge

Telephone number: +995 599 47 97 80.

Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

#6, G.Gelovani str. 0159. Tbilisi. Georgia

Signature:



Date: 22.04.2019