

Assessing equitable access to water and sanitation in Armenia

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Background

- ▶ Armenia announced its intention to apply *the Equitable Access Score-card* during the 7th meeting of the WG on Water and Health in Nov. 2014
- ▶ State Committee of Water Economy requested support from the UNECE secretariat to carry out the equitable access assessment exercise in July 2015.

Objectives

- ▶ Achieve a better understanding of the situation and challenges related to equitable access to water and sanitation;
- ▶ Identify relevant stakeholders and create links with them;

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- ▶ Raise awareness among stakeholders on equity issues;
- ▶ Develop a comprehensive overview of the existing policy measures to address inequities in access to water and sanitation.

Stakeholders

- ▶ Government (ministries and state organizations)
- ▶ Civil society organizations
- ▶ Service providers

Project activities and timelines

- ▶ Duration: 1 year
- ▶ Selecting a project leader and setting up a “core team” (November 2015);
- ▶ Organizing a launching workshop (15 December 2015);
- ▶ Collecting data and filling the score-card based on inputs provided by a broad range of stakeholders (January 2016 – April 2016);

Project activities and timelines

- ▶ Core team completing a report with the preliminary findings (May 2016);
- ▶ Organizing a workshop to discuss the findings and the needs for further actions to improve equitable access to water and sanitation (7 July 2016).

Project outputs

The final output of this self-assessment exercise was a country report that includes:

- ▶ A situational analysis of equitable access to water and sanitation
- ▶ Options available to achieve equitable access in Armenia
- ▶ A summary of workshop discussion and recommendations



Main findings

Nr.	Equitability section	Average score
1	Steering governance framework to deliver equitable access to safe water and sanitation.	1.95
2	Reducing geographical disparities.	2.02
3	Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups.	1.58
4	Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all.	1.99

Main findings

Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups	3.1	Public policies to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups	1.2	low
	3.2	Persons with special physical needs	1	medium
	3.3	Users of health facilities	1.6	medium
	3.4	Users of educational facilities	2.2	high
	3.5	Users of retirement homes	2.2	medium
	3.6	Prisoners	2.4	high
	3.7	Refugees living in refugee camps and centers	1.8	medium
	3.8	Homeless people	1	medium
	3.9	Travelers and nomadic communities	NA	NA
	3.10	Persons living in housing without water and sanitation	1.4	medium
	3.11	Persons without access to safe drinking water and sanitation in their workplaces	1	medium

Follow up actions

- ▶ The exercise was successfully undertaken and the filled and revised Score-card was presented in July 2016.
- ▶ Armenia has requested assistance to apply the draft Guidance Note on Developing Equitable Access Action Plan, building on the findings of the recently completed self-assessment.

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