

Water, sanitation and hygiene

WASH @ COVID-19

IBC on Environment and Climate Change

Promoting measures to green the post-pandemic recovery

19 January 2021

WASH realities in the pan-European region



Photo: Oliver Schmoll



Photo: Bettina Rickert



The have nots

An unfinished agenda in the WHO European Region



Source: WHO & UNICEF 2017



2,700

Annual WASH-related
diarrhoeal deaths

Source: Prüss-Ustün et. al.2019

World Health Assembly resolution 73.1

“The Seventy-third World Health Assembly ... calls on Member States, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic:

... to take measures to support access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and infection prevention and control, ensuring that adequate attention is paid to the promotion of personal hygienic measures in all settings, including humanitarian settings, and particularly in health facilities ...”

SEVENTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA73.1

Agenda item 3

19 May 2020

COVID-19 response

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly,

Having considered the address of the Director-General on the ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19);

Deeply concerned by the morbidity and mortality caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the negative impacts on physical and mental health and social well-being, the negative impacts on economies and societies and the consequent exacerbation of inequalities within and between countries;

Expressing solidarity with all countries affected by the pandemic, as well as condolences and sympathy to all the families of the victims of COVID-19;

Underlining the primary responsibility of governments for adopting and implementing responses to the COVID-19 pandemic that are specific to their national context, as well as for mobilizing the necessary resources to do so;

Recalling the constitutional mandate of WHO to act, inter alia, as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, and recognizing the Organization's key leadership role within the broader United Nations response and the importance of strengthened multilateral cooperation in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and its extensive negative impacts;

Recalling also that the Constitution of WHO defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, and declares that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition;

Further recalling the declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) on 30 January 2020 by the Director-General, and the temporary recommendations issued by the Director-General under the International Health Regulations (2005), upon the advice of the Emergency Committee convened in response to 2019-nCoV;

Also recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 74/270 (2020) on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and 74/274 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19;

¹ Document A73/1

Build forward better

Invest in essential hygiene services

Response

Recovery

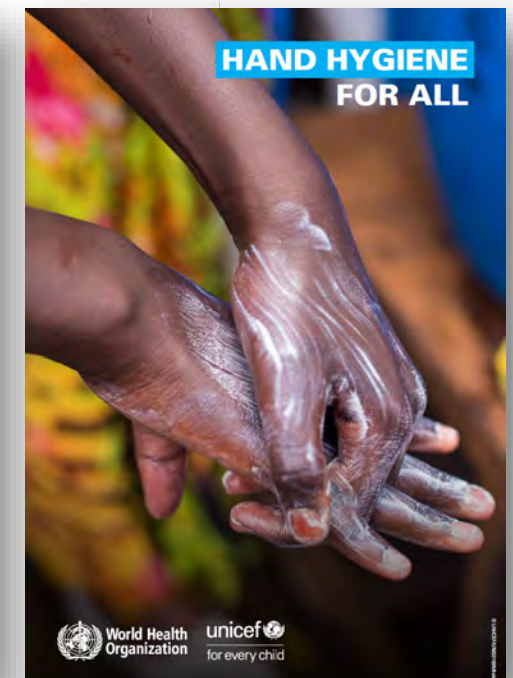
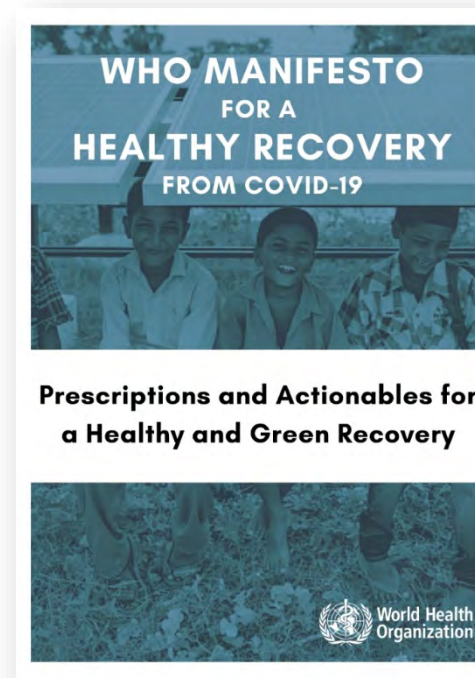
Preparedness

Sustainability



Scale-up a “culture of hand hygiene” in all settings

- HH is the first line of defense against transmission of infectious disease
- Provide universal access to public HH stations
- “No-regrets” investment
- Make HH obligatory in health care facilities, schools, workplaces, transport hubs, markets, and other public places
- Boost programs and partnerships



https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/hand-hygiene-for-all/en

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/climate-change/who-manifesto-for-a-healthy-and-green-post-covid-recovery.pdf?sfvrsn=f32ecfa7_8

Build forward better

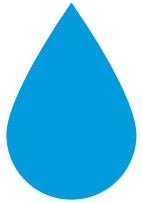
Invest in safely managed water services

Response

Recovery

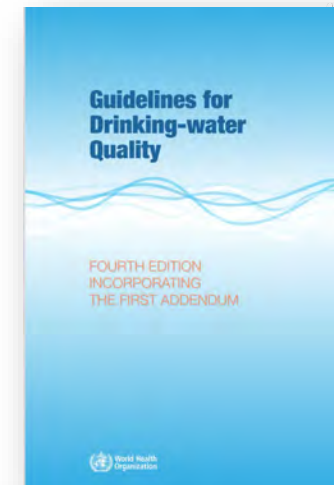
Preparedness

Sustainability



Adopt *Water Safety Plans* as public health benchmark

- Broad uptake in the region in regulations and practice
- Most effective means of consistently ensuring safe drinking-water
- Allow for systematic management of risks
- Improve climate resilience
- Suit all types of supplies
- Reduce incidents and non-compliances
- Bring health gains
- Identify short-term improvements and map needs for long-term investments



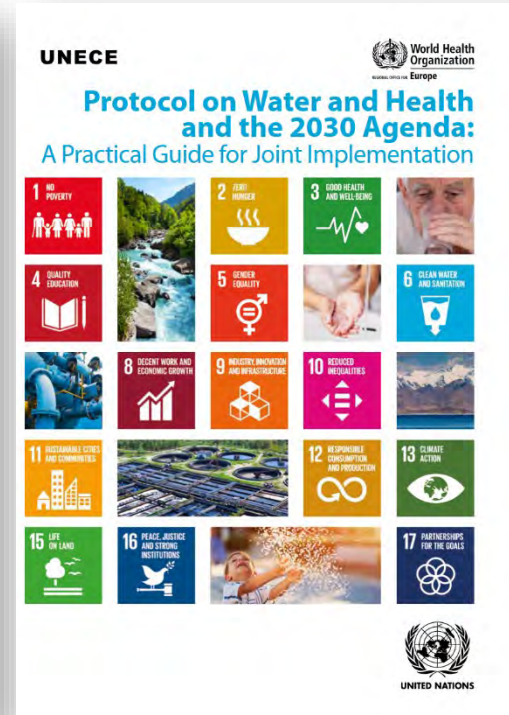
World Health Organization



<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241549950>

https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/publication_9789241562638/en

The Protocol on Water and Health



Legally-binding agreement with intergovernmental platform aimed at protecting human health and well-being through sustainable water management and by reducing water-related diseases

Obligation to set targets to ensure access to safe drinking-water and sanitation for everyone
Tool for “translating” international commitments to nationally-relevant targets

A European knowledge hub and cooperation network on water, sanitation, hygiene and health

<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/envwaterpublicationspub/water/brochures-about-the-protocol-on-water-and-health/2019/protocol-on-water-and-health-and-the-2030-agenda-a-practical-guide-for-joint-implementation/doc.html>

Protocol @ COVID-19



Convene dialogue on experiences with WASH @ COVID-19

- Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting



Scale-up “culture of hygiene” in all settings

- Promote good practices in schools and health facilities



Strengthen health system capacities

- Guide wastewater monitoring as early warning system



Analyse inequalities in access to essential WASH services

- Access to and affordability of services and materials

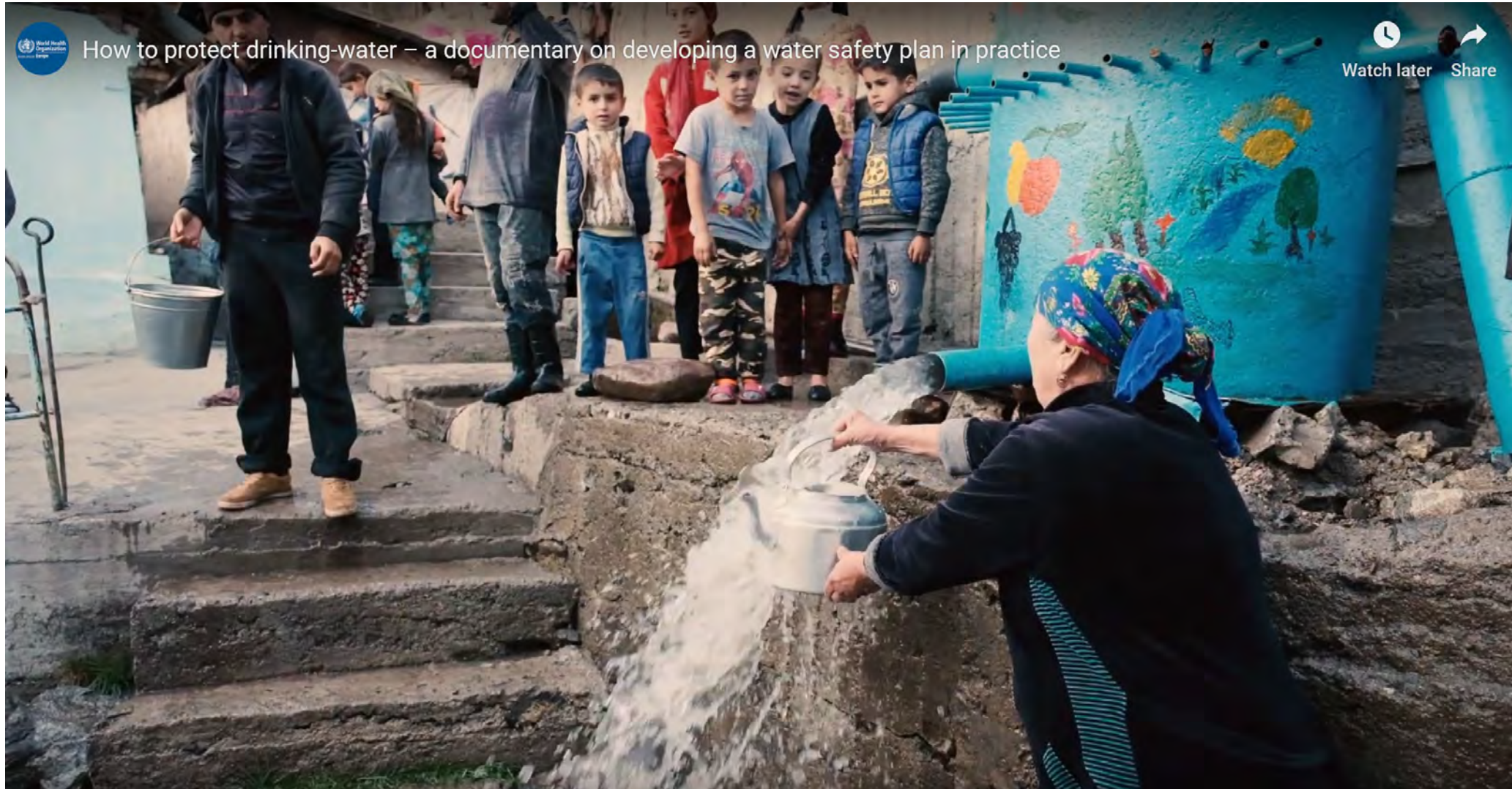


Safe operation and monitoring of water supply systems

- Risk-based management and *Water Safety Plans*



Video documentary on developing a WSP in practice



**Stay
healthy
and
safe**

