How does the Protocol supports countries towards equity in the context of the DWD

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Complementarity of the DWD with the Protocol

**DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE**

**Article 16: Access to drinking-water**

1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to improve or maintain access to water … for all, in particular for vulnerable and marginalised groups.
   a) identify people without access, or with limited access (…);
   b) assess possibilities for improving access for such people;
   c) inform such people about possibilities for connecting to the distribution network or about alternative means (…);
   d) take measures … to ensure that there is access (…).

**PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

**Guiding principle (Art. 5 (l))**

**Equitable access** to water, adequate in terms both of quantity and of quality, should be provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion.

**Parties shall pursue the aims of (Art. 6 (1)):**

- Access to **drinking water for everyone**
- Provision of sanitation for everyone

**DISPARITY DIMENSIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEOGRAPHICAL</th>
<th>SOCIAL</th>
<th>ECONOMIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>Close gaps in differences in access to or quality of services</td>
<td>Prevent discrimination or exclusion in access to services by vulnerable and marginalized groups</td>
<td>Ensure financial affordability</td>
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Protocol tools support DWD implementation

- **Baselines, national targets and action plans** under the Protocol should be inclusive of needs of vulnerable and marginalized population groups.
- Voluntary **self-assessment** process in establishing a baseline, tracking progress and prompting discussions.
- A tool that provide a "high resolution" analysis in a country, region or city.
- Supports **coordination & collaboration** between stakeholders.
- Outcomes provide **solid basis for decisions** on improvements needed to fill equity gaps.
- Basis for developing **action plans**
Risk-based management and equity

**DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE**

**Article 7: Risk-based approach to water safety**

1. Member States shall ensure that the supply, treatment and distribution of water … is subject to a risk-based approach that covers the whole supply chain from the catchment area, abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution of water to the point of compliance (…).

- Water Safety Plan (WSP) uptake in policies and practice is a Protocol priority
- “Equity lens” to systematically integrate equity considerations into WSP programming and practice
- Contribute to equitable realization of the benefits of a WSP and access to safe drinking-water
- Minimize any (unintentional) discrimination through the WSP process
- Strengthen WSP effectiveness through an inclusive WSP approach

Promotion of drinking-water consumption

**DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE**

**Article 16: Access to drinking-water**

2. States shall ensure that outdoor and indoor equipment is set up in public spaces (…)

3. States may also take the following measures to promote the use of tap water (…)
   a) raising awareness of the nearest outdoor or indoor equipment;
   b) launching campaigns (…);
   c) encouraging the provision in (…) public buildings;
   d) encouraging the provision (…) for free or for a low service fee, for customers in restaurants, canteens (…)

- Promotion of **drinking-water consumption** in schools, other public spaces
- **Multiple purposes:**
  - Access of marginalized groups
  - Childhood obesity
  - Environmental footprint
- Comprehensive **evidence review** completed
- **Toolbox** and collection of good practice case studies under development
“Neighbouring” priority themes under the Protocol

• Ensuring access to water in public spaces allows for (hand) **hygiene practices** under pandemic conditions and is a necessity for scaling-up *Hand Hygiene for All*

• Ensuring safe and reliable water supply (+WASH) in **health care facilities** enables quality of care and patient and staff safety

• Ensuring safe and reliable water supply (+WASH) in **schools** promotes health, well-being and learning of pupils

• Improving regulations, support programmes and capacities of operators of **small-scale water supplies** in rural areas to close the urban-rural gap
Let us make equity a reality

Photo: Bettina Rickert

Photo: Oliver Schmoll
Stay healthy and safe