ACTION PLAN FOR 2018-2020 ON PROVISION OF EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION IN ARMENIA

AFFORDABILITY ISSUES IN ARMENIA

6TH MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON EQUITABLE ACCESS
Geneva, 24-25 March 2021

Armine Arushanyan, Water Committee of the RA
Enna Anakhasyan, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
The aim of developing an Action Plan was to establish a list of measures/activities directed at providing equitable access to water and sanitation, as well as the evaluation criteria, responsible authorities, partners and the sources of funding.
Priority areas of actions

- improvement of equitable access to water and sanitation management (financing and legal regulations);
- reduction of geographic disparities in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation;
- provision of equitable access to water and sanitation for marginalized and vulnerable groups
AFFORDABILITY ISSUES IN ARMENIA

In the framework of the "Enabling Women to Participate in Sustainable Water Management in Armenia" project Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) NGO developed technical reports “Assessment of the impact of current drinking water and sanitation tariffs on vulnerable and marginalized groups”.

Project funded by The United Nations Democracy
The main purpose was to identify the financial problems and gaps in equitable water supply and sanitation access and affordability for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The technical report includes an analysis of existing legal frameworks, institutional arrangements of the country, and situation in the drinking water and sanitation sector of the Republic of Armenia the current tariff policy and expert assessment.
**Affordability issues in Armenia**

- **Methodology**: The report is based on the literature review and assessment of the existing documents and open sources, such as websites, statistics, reports, etc.

- **Legal documents**: The affordability of drinking water supply and sanitation services is included in the Water Code of the RA and the Law “On Fundamental Provisions of the National Water Policy”, according to which it is necessary to ensure the affordability of water in adequate quantity and acceptable quality to meet the basic needs of population, especially vulnerable group.
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• Since January 1, 2017, water supply and sanitation (wastewater treatment) services have been provided by "Veolia Djur" CJSC.

• The current single tariff for water is 180 AMD (2.9 USD) per 1 cubic meter, plus, 11 AMD is subsidized for 2019.

• The tariff is applicable to all customers of the settlements included in the service area of "Veolia Djur" CJSC, including for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
SOCIAL SUPPORT

- The tariff is set for all consumers, with the exception of consumers of special groups (some groups of military servants), for whom there are set discounts.

- The basic amount of social assistance allowance for 2018 is set at AMD 18,000, (34.1 USD) plus 5,500-7,000 AMD (9.4USD-13.2USD) extra money for family members under the age of 18.

- The laws of the Republic of Armenia generally refer to monetary compensation, which also includes general utility costs.
Despite overall progress in the area of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, both social and geographical disparities in Armenia still remain.

One of the major challenges in the field of water supply and sanitation is the solution of the drinking water issue of around 570 settlements that are not provided with centralized water supply and are not included in the water supply service area.

Issues of equitable access due to geographical location have been discussed many times and are in the spotlight, but problem-solving activities are slow.
LESSONS LEARNT

- The vulnerable and marginalized groups in terms of access to drinking water supply and sanitation are not legally established in Armenia.
- The state policy on social protection and social assistance implements highly specific and targeted policies of social security and insurance.
- Recommendations were developed, including recommendation on introducing social tariffs in Armenia.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION