

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

National summary country report in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health for the period 2019-2021, 2022 Reporting cycle

Executive summary

Please provide an overall evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Protocol in your country during the reporting period. Please provide a short description of the main steps taken and highlight important achievements, key challenges, success factors and concrete good practice examples.

Suggested length: maximum 2 pages

For the period 2019-2021, were taken steps to develop legal framework to create an enabling environment to improve situation in the areas of water quality, integrated water resources management and water supply and sanitation.

By the Parliament was adopted Law on Drinking Water Quality, #182/2019, harmonized with EU Directives and WHO Guidelines, which entered into force from 2021. This law established the framework for DWQ requirements, monitoring procedures, responsibilities of public authorities and water operators, water safety planning, public information.

By Government Decree No. 442 of July 31, 2020, was ammended National Water and Sanitation Strategy (2014-2030), in which the priority goals were:

1) Improving the management of public water supply and sanitation services by establishing regional water supply and sanitation operators.

2) Planning and development of public water supply and sewerage systems in order to increase the access of the population to high quality services. The goal for 2020-2024 is to achieve 80% water and sanitation infrastructure coverage in urban areas and 75% in rural areas.

3) Harmonization of national legislation on water supply and sanitation in accordance with European Comission standards and international obligations. Measures will be taken to improve, revise and regulate the legal framework for the operation of public water supply and sewerage services by introducing European management principles and strengthening the responsibility of local and central public authorities in order to ensure quality public services. The problems that exist in the water supply and sanitation sector require urgent solutions, as well as the development of rules and measures to improve them through:

-development and/or revision of regulations to harmonize national legislation with the legislation of the European Union, ensure compliance with other international obligations of the country (including Agenda 2030 on SDG 6 and the Paris Agreement on climate change);

-legislation changes in order to implement the policy of regionalization of the sector, so that associations of territorial-administrative units and regional operators are created, have the opportunity to carry out their activities on the basis of simple and uniform procedures, both from an institutional point of view and from the point of view of delegating service management and the competencies with which the associations have been empowered;

-developing economic instruments to manage and support policy objectives in the water supply and sanitation sector and for social support for vulnerable and marginalized

consumer groups to ensure equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water as a basic human right;

-application of the "polluter pays" and "consumer pays" principles to protect natural ecosystems, water resources and public health.

By the Government Decree No. 444/2020 established a mechanism for coordinating activities in the field of climate change. The National Commission provides an institutional framework for coordination in the field of monitoring, reporting and verification, and also promotes the integration of climate change aspects into national and sectoral programs and plans. The intersectoral mechanism for coordinating the process of adaptation to climate change is aimed at:

1) promoting dialogue, cooperation, coordination and alignment across sectors in the planning and implementation of climate change adaptation actions with all stakeholders;

2) promoting the integration of adaptation measures in sectoral planning and facilitating the implementation of adaptation actions;

3) monitoring the distribution of national and international resources for the implementation of adaptation actions;

4) ensuring transparency in the implementation of adaptation measures and preventing wrong adaptation.

A Joint Statement on the Strategic Action Program for the Dniester River Basin for 2021-2035 was signed. Ministers of the Environment of the Republic of Moldova and of Ukraine, which states that the sustainable management in the Dniester River Basin is a key factor in improving the state of not only water resources, but in general of the environment in the region.

By Government Decree No. 562 of July 31, 2020 approved the Flood Risk Management Plans for the Dniester Basin District and the Danube-Prut and Black Sea Basin Districts. A preliminary flood risk assessment has been carried out, flood protection works and the condition of protective dams on rivers have been identified, existing flood warning and response systems have been described, areas with potential significant flood risk and general flood risk management objectives have been identified. Also, the measures applied at the national level are identified, including strengthening of institutional capacity by updating plans, developing mechanisms, creating warning systems for effective flood risk management at the national level and measures applied at the level of the basin district.

The institutional reform of the government in the field of environmental protection has been carried out. Created: standalone ministries of Health and of Environment, the Environment Agency, which is responsible for implementing policies, regulating and issuing permits for activities affecting the environment, and monitoring the quality of environmental factors. The Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, which will exercise state control and supervision, prevention and punishment for violations in the field of environmental protection.

The National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" was adopted, which is a document of strategic vision and indicates the direction of development of the country and society over the next decade, based on the life cycle principle of human rights and quality of life, and includes four sustainable development principles with 10 relevant long-term goals, one of those 4 principles is: a healthy environment (ensuring the basic right to a healthy and safe environment).

During last three years increased access of population, especially in rural to safely managed water supply services, improved drinking water quality, decreased incidence of water-related disease, also were improved water supply and sanitation services in educational settings.

Part one

General aspects

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

Please provide detailed information on the target areas in part two.

YES **NO** **IN PROGRESS**

If targets have been revised, please indicate the date of adoption and list the revised target areas. Please provide detailed information in part two.

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

Please explain whether the targets and target dates were published, made available to the public (e.g., online, official publication, media) and communicated to the secretariat.

The process of setting targets in the Republic of Moldova was initiated in 2009, targets approved by a general order by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health No. 91/704 dated 10/20/2010 and published on the websites of both ministries. The Target Indicators were also included in a separate brochure in May 2011 by the NGO Eco-TIRAS with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the assistance of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. A total of 34 Targets were set for all 20 sections of the Protocol.

On November 21, 2012, a joint order was signed under No. 94/1166 on the establishment of the Coordination Committee for the implementation of the UN-SDC Project on “Implementing Targets in accordance with the Protocol on Water and Health”. A joint declaration was also signed between the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Health, the UN EC and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation on project implementation. One of the results is the development of the National Program on the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025, which in 2016 was adopted by the Government Decree No. 1063 of September 16. This National Program set targets and target dates for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova and was published in the Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova. (MO number 314 from 09/20/2016).

The program includes measures to improve water safety, ensure an adequate supply of good quality water, ensure a constant, balanced and adequate use of water resources and ensure optimal conditions for the prevention of water-related diseases. In the context of developing a national development strategy for the country until 2030, the process of updating the National Program for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 with the support of the UNECE began.

3. Has your country established national or local arrangements for coordination between competent authorities for setting targets? If so please describe, including information on which public authority(ies) took the leadership and coordinating role, which public authorities were involved and how coordination was ensured.

In the Republic of Moldova, responsible for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health are the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health, which developed and coordinated the setting and implementation of targets with all interested authorities, including Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and Ministry of Finance.

4. Was a programme of measures or action plan developed to support implementation of the targets? If so, please briefly describe that programme or plan, including how financial implications were taken into account.

The National Program on the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016–2025 was developed and approved (Government Decree No. 1063 of September 16, 2016).

The National Program includes 3 annexes:

- National targets set in 20 target areas and target dates for their achievement,*
- Action Plan for the implementation of specific targets*
- Budget allocated for the activities to achieve the objectives of the Program*

The program also sets 14 specific objectives, the most important of which are:

- Ensuring by 2025 the distribution of safe drinking water in 100% of institutions for children and a reduction of up to 20% inappropriate samples of drinking water in basic chemical parameters and 5% in microbiological parameters

- A 20% reduction in the number of outbreaks of infectious diseases and the incidence of water-related diseases by 2025

- Ensuring access to sustainable drinking water supply systems in 100% of institutions for children and 75% of the total population by 2025

- Providing by 2025 100% public access to improved sanitation systems, including up to 50% to sewage systems

To achieve these goals, the Action Plan provides 77 actions to improve the situation, such as strengthening legal framework, creating information systems and disease surveillance systems, monitoring system for water quality, development of infrastructure for water supply and sanitation systems, building water treatment plants to improve drinking water supplied to consumers, creating regional operators of WSS systems, improving water quality monitoring, informing the public about water and health problems, establishing Clearing House for public information.

To implement the measures provided in the Program until 2025, financial costs were evaluated at 11,139.4 billions lei, including from the state budget, the National Ecological Fund, and external technical assistance.

In 2020 initiated a revision of current program and targets, an analysis of the current situation in the water supply and sanitation sector was made and were proposed new targets. The program is proposed to be extended till 2030, also new figures for targets proposed for 2030, was revised the list and values of target indicators. Two new indicators were added in the 3rd area (water safety plan and the introduction of equal access to water for marginalized groups in legislative acts). For 3-11 areas, the number of settlements that will be connected to water supply systems and the increase in the number of wastewater treatment plants have been increased in order to stop pollution

of water bodies. Areas 7 and 8 merged into one area, which will be implemented by the same actions and one target indicator is provided.

5. What has been done in your country to ensure public participation in the process of target setting in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, and how was the outcome of public participation taken into account in the final targets set?

Civil society actively involved in the process of identifying and prioritizing problems, in consulting on proposed targets and related measures, and final coordination of established goals and targets. Actually, The Committee was established by joint Order No. 11/75 of February 19, 2010 of the Ministers of Environment and Health, which included representatives of key ministries and other government structures, as well as representatives of NGOs from the public.

In the previous process of target setting and in the process of revision of targets, the NGO community was widely involved in the process by participating in stakeholder meetings and providing comments. Also NGO "Eco-Contact" is acting as a secretariat for the established Community of Practicioners in Water and sanitation, which meet on trimestrial base and include specialist from water sector, environmenta protection and public health and is a sound voice on Protocol implementation.

6. Please provide information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on which public authorities had the main responsibilities and what other stakeholders were involved.

This report has been prepared by specialists, national focal points from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health, who have a coordinating role and implementation of targets. Data from other authorities were also presented.

7. Please report any particular circumstances that are relevant for understanding the report, including whether there is a federal and/or decentralized decision-making structure.

Part two

Targets and target dates set and assessment of progress

For countries that have set or revised targets and target dates, please provide information specifically related to the progress towards achieving them. If you have not set targets in a certain area, please explain why.

For countries in the process of setting targets, please provide information on baseline conditions and/or targets considered under the relevant target areas.

Suggested length: one page (330 words) per target area.

In accordance with Government Decree Nr. 1063 of 09/16/2016 on the approval of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, Ministries, other central and administrative bodies need to submit information on the implementation of the National Program annually until February 15 to the Ministry of Health, which will compile the information received and submit until March 15 to the Government annually a report on the implementation of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025.

For the period 2019-2021, projects for the rehabilitation of water supply and sewage systems (VC) were implemented, a roadmap was developed to implement the Water Supply and Sanitation Plan, new laws and regulations on water supply and sanitation, integrated water resources management and waste management were developed.

Area XVI - Art. 6.2 (j), part III - The quality of waters used for aquaculture or for breeding or collecting mollusks and crustaceans was excluded from the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova, Annex No. 1 Targets for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health , due to the lack of data in our country.

I. Quality of the drinking water supplied (art. 6, para. 2 (a))

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area 1 were set the following target

	Areas of the Protocol	Target	Target dates
.	Area I, subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of Article 6 "The quality of the drinking water supplied"	1) Reduction of the proportion of non-compliant drinking water samples to microbiological parameters (E.coli, enterococci) 2) Reduction of non-compliant drinking water samples to 5 basic chemical parameters (F, NO3, NO2, As, Fe, Pb) 3) Achieving compliance of drinking water quality in schools for all regulated microbiological and chemical parameters	1) 5% of annual samples by 2020 and 3% by 2025 in urban areas 10% of annual samples by 2020 and 8% by 2025 in rural areas 2) 25% of annual samples to 2020 and up to 20% by 2025 3) 100% of schools by 2025

The Ministry of Health, is responsible for developing a regulatory framework for the quality of drinking water, surface and groundwater used as sources of drinking water, with recreation and irrigation purposes; monitoring its quality, as well as of the plans for ensuring safe drinking water, and also for assessing the risks and the influence of water on health, keeps records of water-related diseases, monitors public

access to improved water systems, sanitation and hygiene practices, informs the public about water quality and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

The overall objective of this program is to achieve the set targets for the Protocol in accordance with 20 areas, until 2025. The program has its own specific tasks, including:

1. Reduction of the weight of non-compliant drinking water samples by microbiological parameters (E.coli, enterococci) for the consumer, within the following timeframes: - 5% of the annual number of samples until 2020 and 3% until 2025 in urban areas; -10% of the annual number of samples until 2020 and 8% until 2025 in rural areas.

In order to improve monitoring, in the reporting period (2016-2018), the Ministry of Health took measures to consolidate and strengthen the material and technical base of laboratories in 10 regional Public Health Centers and also the regulatory framework including the development of sanitary guidelines and standards for small systems water supply approved by Government Decree No. 1466 of December 30, 2016; was developed and adopted in 2018.

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova has adopted a law on the drinking water quality, #182/2019, the provisions of which are adjusted in accordance with the Directive of the European Parliament 98/83/CE and the Council of Europe of November 3, 1998.

A draft on Sanitary Regulation on drinking water quality surveillance was developed and planned for adoption in 2021.

One of the biggest achievements was construction of the Water Treatment Plant from river Prut in Nisporeni, a district center, which supplies more than 20 thousands population. Also grants were allocated from the National Ecological Fund and 2 smaller water treatment plants were built and put into operation.

2. Reduction of the share of drinking water samples that do not meet sanitary standards in 5 main chemical parameters (F, NO₃, NO₂, As, Fe, Pb) in the following timeframes - 25% of annual samples by 2020 and up to 20% by 2025.

In order to achieve this goal, the Government of the Republic of Moldova is developing a National Master Plan for Drinking water supply, which provides modernization and rehabilitation of existing water treatment plants, construction of 300 small WTP, and connection to WSS from surface waters after treatment, regionalization of services. In last 3 years were built 3 new WTP, improving DWQ for more than 50000 inhabitants.

3. Achieving compliance with the quality of drinking water in schools for all regulated microbiological and chemical parameters in the following periods: - 100% of schools until 2025;

The Ministry of Health developed Sanitary Regulation on drinking water quality surveillance, in accordance with WHO recommendations, which is expected to be approved soon.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area 2 were set the following target

	Area II, subparagraph (b) of paragraph 2 of Article 6 "The reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of waterrelated disease"	1) Establishment of an integrated information system for surveillance of non-communicable diseases 2) Reduce the incidence of hepatitis A, ECEH and dysentery 3) Applying drinking water safety plans	1) Information system set up by 2020 2) 20% by 2020 3) In all cities and localities with a population of over 2,000 inhabitants by 2025
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The National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016–2025 provides for a reduction of 20% by 2025 of the number of epidemic outbreaks of infectious diseases and the incidence of water-related diseases.

In the Republic of Moldova, in 2005–2021, weren't registered outbreaks of water-related infectious diseases, such as cholera and typhoid fever, viral hepatitis A, ECEH.

As shown in Table 7, in the Republic of Moldova there is a decreasing trend in some infectious diseases, potentially water related per 100 thousands population, including a decrease in the number of cases of rotaviral infection more than 10 times (in particular, after the introduction of compulsory rotavirus vaccine immunization of children), except for cases of hepatitis A, where the level of diseases is higher than in 2012, but lower than the initial value since the Protocol started to be implemented, and the morbidity has a cyclical pattern. In addition, the incidence of Giardiasis and Cryptosporidiosis have decreased. Over the past 5 years there has been only one case of Legionellosis. It should be noted that data collection is carried out both by the number of cases and by the number of outbreaks.

In order to prepare for public health emergencies, the Government created the National Emergency Commission on Public Health, which decides on the introduction, suspension and abolition of isolation and / or quarantine measures at national level and at district level in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

As part of the National Agency for Public Health, a Public Health Emergency Department has been created for monitoring cases of public health hazards and disease reports, working 24/7 and ensuring coordination of all health sectors in case of emergencies. In the event of three or more cases of water-related diseases, it is necessary to report them within 24 hours, by order of the Minister of Health.

With support of Norwegian Institute of Public Health, developed and adopted Guidelines for surveillance of food- and water-borne outbreaks, to be used by the specialists of the National Public Health Agency.

In order to establish national framework, were approved National Guidelines for the development of Drinking Water Safety Plans (WSP), by joint Decree No. 609/65 of July 21, 2017 of the Ministers of Health and of Environment. Till present were developed WSP in more than 100 locations. Taking into consideration, that WSP were of different quality and content, were decided to develop model WSP. With the support of the ApaSan Project of the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency were developed in 2018 two model WSP – first in a location with water treatment plant and second – in largest rural community with diverse water sources, to cover different situation. Obtained experience was shared with all interested operators.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area 3 were set the following target

.	Area III, subparagraph (c) of paragraph 2 of Article 6 "Access of the entire population to improved drinking water systems"	<p>1) Ensuring access to an improved drinking water system</p> <p>2) Ensuring children's access to improved water sources in kindergartens and schools</p> <p>3) Providing a legal and institutional</p>	<p>1) 99% of the total urban population and 85% of the rural population until 2025</p> <p>2) 100% of institutions until 2020</p> <p>3) Creating a legal framework until</p>
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		framework to provide equal access to water for vulnerable and marginalized groups	2018. Implementation of financial mechanisms to ensure equal access until 2020
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1) In 2021 98% of urban and 48% of rural population had access to improved water supply system and increase from previous reporting period.

2) 88% of kindergartens and schools have access to safely managed water supply system.

3) In accordance with the data of the National Bureau of Statistics, the number of settlements with access to water supply systems in 2020 compared to 2017 increased by 58 units. 82% of settlements are connected to water supply systems, about 18% from rural settlements do not have access to water supply systems.

In order to improve the regulatory framework on equal access to water and adequate sanitation for vulnerable and marginalized groups, an inter-ministerial working group has been set up with the involvement of experts.

The normative and institutional framework for identifying barriers to ensuring equal access to water and sanitation in the Republic of Moldova was analyzed and the financial mechanisms for ensuring equal access were established.

Access to water and sanitation in Moldova is mainly defined by residence and household income. Rural and poorer households have on average twice as lower access to water and sanitation as urban and high-income households. In Moldova, most poor households live in rural areas.

Income is the most significant factor of inequality in access to water and sanitation. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics, as well as data from national opinion polls, show that the most significant inequalities in access to water and sanitation relate to income inequalities (income inequalities would be smaller but still significant if the access to services of poor households were compared to the middle-income household). These are followed by inequalities based on disability and the inequalities of Roma and non-Roma.

While inequalities in access to water are declining, inequalities in sanitation are more persistent. Access to public water sources has steadily improved over the last decade. This is largely a factor in constant investment in rural communities. As most households live in rural areas, inequality of access for rural areas has been reduced to income inequality. Inequalities in access to public health have been more persistent, mainly due to less investment in rural areas.

Another feature of inequality in access to services is intra-Community inequality. This is the difference between the percentages of households that mention that there are certain services in their community (for example, the centralized water supply system and the percentage of households that have and use this service. Intra-community inequality allows us to better understand the level of inequality, because the first

condition for a household to benefit from one service or another is the presence of this service in the community. The fact that a household does not benefit from a community service even if that service is present in the community indicates other factors than lack of investment, factors such as marginalization or discrimination.

Inequalities affecting Roma stem from both exclusion and discriminatory practices. About 47% of Roma believe that limited access to public services is due to their belonging to this ethnic group. Such a significant share of perceptions of exclusion is explained only by the existence of such practices in reality.

A new approach focused on reducing inequalities. The existing legislative and policy framework provides for general measures in which the authorities are obliged to discriminate when developing water and sanitation services. As the above analysis shows, with the exception of Roma households, existing inequalities persist because the responsible authorities do not recognize inequalities of access as a priority and do not treat them in a more consistent and programmatic way. Therefore, the first principle in improving the existing legal and political framework is to shift the focus from avoiding discrimination to reducing inequalities in access. This principle will require the existing legal framework to define what inequality of access means.

Introduction of the so-called bond to ensure equality. This principle is very dependent on the first principle. Each responsible authority will need to take a clear mandate to identify and reduce inequalities in access to water and sanitation. This means that each responsible institution will have to, within its existing functional mandate, proactively and systematically analyze and identify inequalities in access, develop and implement strategic and operational initiatives to reduce, monitor and monitor them, and assess progress on how inequalities have been reduced.

Empowering and participating the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the decision-making process. Any sustainable approach to reducing inequalities in access to water and sanitation will entail empowering vulnerable and marginalized groups to participate and change local or regional priorities for water and sanitation.

The analysis found the need to amend the normative acts, which will provide:

- Completion of the Water Law no. 272/2011 with new notions regarding access to water (situation in which natural and legal persons use water in the necessary quantity and corresponding quality); inequality in access to water (a persistent situation in which certain groups or individuals are in a comparatively worse position in terms of access to water); vulnerable and marginalized persons / groups in terms of access to water (individuals or groups of persons who do not fully enjoy access to water due to discriminatory treatment, exclusion or inaction caused by certain characteristics of the person or group).

- Completion of Law no. 303/2013 on public water supply and sewerage services with regard to the gradual reduction of inequality in access to water supply and public sewerage, meeting the requirements of consumers, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, protecting their interests, strengthening economic cohesion and

social development in local communities, as well as the sustainable development of administrative-territorial units and the reduction of inequality in access to public water supply and sanitation services.

- The analysis of Law no. 438/2006 on regional development in the Republic of Moldova revealed inequality in access to development services and opportunities - a persistent situation in which certain groups or individuals are at a disadvantage compared to local services. Development inequality is a persistent situation in which certain regions or localities are in a comparatively worse state in terms of socio-economic development.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5 of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area IV were set the following target

<p>Area IV, subparagraph d) of paragraph 2 of Article 6 "Access of the population to improved sanitation systems"</p>	<p>1) Providing access to improved sanitation systems, with access to sewage systems.</p> <p>2) Ensuring children's access to improved sanitation systems in kindergartens and schools.</p> <p>3) Increase in the number of settlements and the population in them served by ecological sanitation systems (individual and / or collective) (ECOSAN toilets, built wet areas. Septic tanks and other technologies)</p>	<p>1) 100% of the total population with access to improved sanitation systems, including 85% for the urban population and 25% for the rural population to sewage systems until 2025.</p> <p>2) 100% of institutions until 2020.</p> <p>3) 150 settlements until 2025</p>
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3) The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) began supporting the water sector in Moldova in 2001 through the provision of humanitarian aid. Since 2008 to 2020, SDC and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) have funded the ApaSan project, which is being implemented by the Swiss company Skat Consulting

Ltd. The ApaSan project combines policy implications, institutional strengthening and support for infrastructure development, with the goal of enabling Moldovan institutions at all levels to better meet the needs of the rural population, including the most vulnerable, in water and sanitation services.

Key results:

- *Progress in national policies is noted, as decentralized water supply options are now recognized as a valid decision in the National Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy and in some by-laws, norms and standards.*

- *By the Ministry of Health developed and adopted in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Research, Guidance on school sanitation, with and recommendations for school and kindergarten managers on issues of sanitation.*

The models for the provision of water supply and sanitation services were tested, improved, consolidated, documented and repeated in all regions of Moldova, including Gagauzia and Transnistria.

- *Small local administrative authorities (mayors) have agreed to formally delegate the provision of water services to urban utility providers (Apacanals), and this is an important step towards the regionalization of water supply and sanitation services.*

- *68 schools, 5 public buildings and 156 households (26,000 users) have comfortable and clean toilets (dry toilets with ecosan).*

- *Wastewater treatment in villages was piloted by means of 7 structures such as wetland natural waste water treatment systems.*

With the support of the World Bank, the project "Water supply and sanitation in the Republic of Moldova" was launched in 2020, which aims to increase access to water supply and sanitation services in a number of selected rural areas and cities and strengthen institutional capacity for providing these services. The project activities will include the construction and rehabilitation of sewerage networks, wastewater treatment plants, including sludge treatment and disposal, connections to centralized sewerage, construction of septic tanks and other individual infiltration systems.

The project also contains a component for improving WASH conditions in public institutions, where works, facilities, consulting services and seminars to improve health conditions in public health centers and educational institutions will be funded. This includes connecting to centralized networks or existing water supply points, connecting to sewer systems or building local sewerage and toilet facilities inside buildings with adequate hand washing and hygiene facilities. The management capacities of schools and health centers will be strengthened, as well as local public administrations for the proper functioning and maintenance of the units, as well as awareness and behavior change campaigns related to the promotion of hygiene.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5 of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the areas V were set the following targets

	Area V, subpara e) of para 2 of Article 6 Part 1 "Levels of efficiency of collective systems of water supply and other systems"	1) Availability of effective collective water supply systems 2) The presence of VC collective system operators capable of responding at the regional level to mitigate the effects of extreme weather conditions and emergencies	1) In 14 cities and 20 villages until 2020 2) 7 operators until 2025
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In 2020, about 73% of all public sewerage systems were equipped with wastewater treatment plants. Of the 92 existing treatment facilities, 81 were operational. The best situation with the functionality of treatment facilities has developed in the north of Moldova (95.5%), Chisinau and the South (88.9% each). 64.9 million m3 of treated wastewater (97.0%) passed through the water treatment facilities. Of the total volume of treated wastewater, 96.1% was mechanically treated, 95.5% biologically and 2.9% was discharged without treatment.

The updated Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy (2014-2030) set specific targets for achieving the overall objective based on the ecological status of water resources and the water supply and sewerage sector, as well as the need to strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework.

Improving the management of public water supply and sewerage services is linked to the role of local governments and sewerage operators in managing water supply and sewerage infrastructure and providing efficient services to consumers. Local public authorities have exclusive competence in the creation, organization, management and control of public water supply and sewerage services, and the creation of regional operators of these services, which are currently fragmented and dispersed, is a key element in the development policy of this sector. Following the application of the principle of regionalization of the water supply and sewerage service and the support

of international bodies through investment projects, 8 regional operators were created, which extended their area of activity in rural areas.

With the support of the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, a general plan for water supply and sanitation of Ialoveni district was developed to provide quality water to the inhabitants of 12 villages of the district. This pipeline will be operated by the regional operator S.A. "Apa Canal Chisinau" and is part of the policy of regionalization of services, an action that is on the company's agenda. The implementation of this project contributes to achieving the objectives of the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy, supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the field of drinking water and sanitation.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area VI were set the following targets

	Area VI, sub-paragraph e) of paragraph 2 of Article 6 Part 2 “Levels of operational efficiency for collective sanitation systems and other systems”	Availability of effective collective sewage systems	In 7 cities until 2025
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According to the data of the National Bureau of Statistics, the number of settlements with public sewerage systems from 2016 to 2019 increased from 110 to 116, inclusive in rural areas from 58 to 64. Rural settlements have the least access to public sewerage. 7.6% of the total number of settlements in the country, 95.0% of municipalities and cities and 4.4% of rural settlements were provided with public sewerage.

The largest share of settlements with access to the public sewerage system is registered in Chisinau (71.4%) and South Region (15.6%), while the lowest access rates are in settlements in North - 7%.

Thus, there is a significant gap between villages and cities, in rural areas there are less developed public network and serve mainly educational and social institutions and only small part of the population.

A mechanism has been created to ensure control over the calculation of operator tariffs. The National Energy Regulatory Agency has developed the following documents for the implementation of Law No. 303 of December 13, 2013 on the public water supply and sewage services and improving the efficiency of operators and, accordingly, the operation of water supply and sewage systems.

- Methodology for determining, approving and applying tariffs for public utilities for water supply, sewage and wastewater treatment (No. 741 of December 18, 2014).

- Regulations on the public water supply and sanitation service (No. 271 of December 16, 2015).

- Provision on quality indicators of the municipal water supply and sewage service (No. 352 of December 27, 2016).

- Regulation on the establishment and approval in order to determine the rates of technological consumption and water losses in water supply systems (No. 180 dated June 10, 2016).

- Regulations on the procurement of goods, works and services used in the licensing of activities in the energy, thermal energy, natural gas sectors, as well as operators providing utility services for water supply and sewage (No. 24 dated January 26, 2017).

Developed a Guide to drafting a business plan for the development of companies Apa-Canal.

- Guidance on water supply and sanitation is published and distributed.*
- The Congress of Moldovan Local Authorities (CALM) has created a service center to support small water supply and sanitation operators in rural areas.*

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the areas VII and VIII were set the following targets

	<p>Areas VII and VIII, subparagraph f) of clause 2 of Article 6 “Application of recognized good practice in the field of water supply, water management and sanitation”</p>	<p>Establishment of regional associations of enterprises for the management of collective water supply and sanitation systems</p>	<p>5 associations created until 2020</p>
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Local rural water user associations have been established to serve collective water supply and sanitation systems.

The concept of regionalization of operators was developed and approved in accordance with the practice of the European Union and the action plan that was included in the water supply and sanitation strategy plan for the next 5 years.

In order to familiarize local administrations with the national development policy of the water supply and sewerage sector, seminars were organized for local administrations, central authorities, civil society, development partners, etc., on the topic “Regionalization of the water supply and sewerage sector - a key element of the state policy for the development of the industry”. The seminars were organized with the support of the project "Strengthening the institutional framework in the water supply and sewerage sector in the Republic of Moldova", funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Austrian Development Agency. The seminars addressed legal and institutional aspects of regionalization of services, presentation of examples of regionalization in the Republic of Moldova; international experience, case study on the regionalization of the water supply and sewerage service in Romania. In order to develop the water supply and sanitation sector, changes were initiated to the regulatory framework for the creation of interurban development associations in accordance with the provisions of the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy 2014-

2030. According to the Strategy, one of the goals is to improve the management of public water supply and sanitation services, which is the regionalization of water supply and sanitation services, which is currently a key element of the sector development policy. The goal of regionalization is to move from a large number of service providers to a limited number of operators capable of providing sustainable services at affordable rates, which will ensure the recovery of investment costs and the subsequent development of water supply and sanitation systems.

Area IX art.6 point 2 letter g) and (i) "Discharge of Untreated Wastewater"

At the request of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in the Dniester River Basin, in the period 2017-2021, the project "Promoting cross-border cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin" was implemented, which was funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by UNDP, OSCE and UNECE.

The project supported the integrated management of water resources in the Dniester river basin to consolidate sustainable development by developing the Cross-Border Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the Strategic Action Plan (SAP).

The following significant anthropogenic pressures and their causes have been identified in the TDA:

- 1. Pollution with organic substances, due to insufficient degree of wastewater treatment or lack of treatment;*
- 2. Nutrient pollution due to inadequate or non-existent wastewater treatment and runoff from agricultural land;*
- 3. Pollution with dangerous substances, the sources of which are municipal and industrial discharges, runoff, pesticides and other hazardous chemicals used in agriculture, as well as accidental pollution and the impact of contaminated territories (deposits, sites, areas, etc.);*
- 4. Hydro morphological changes associated with hydropower, flood protection, and river flow regulation;*
- 5. Pollution with plastic and other household waste.*

The first four loads are defined for most river basins in Europe, while the fifth is specific to the Dniester river basin. In addition, there is the issue of invasive species distribution, as well as the relationship between water quantity and quality associated with climate change, floods, droughts and water scarcity.

The Strategic Action Program defines measures aimed at reducing the anthropogenic impact on surface and groundwater in the Dniester river basin, as well as developing cooperation between the two countries.

One of Strategic Action Program directions is to reduce water pollution from point, diffuse and plastic sources, as well as to prevent accidental pollution.

During the TDA preparation, 98 point sources of pollution were identified (70 municipal, 11 industrial, 17 agricultural).

The implementation of this Strategic Action Program is to be implemented by 2035 by both countries, and the strategic documents in the field of water will be oriented to this joint progress which will be promoted later.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the

Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the areas IX, X and XI were set the following targets

	Area IX, subparagraph g) (ii) of paragraph 2 of Article 6 "Discharge of untreated sewage"	To exclude discharge of untreated sewage into natural water bodies	In 10 cities until 2025
	Area X, subparagraph g) (ii) of paragraph 2 of Article 6) "Discharge of untreated rainwater from collection systems"	Construction of treatment plants for rainwater discharged into natural water bodies in urban areas	In 5 cities until 2025
0.	Area XI, subparagraph (h) of paragraph 2 of Article 6 "The quality of wastewater discharges from sewage treatment plants"	Sewage treatment up to standards of discharge into natural water resources from treatment facilities	In 10 cities and 20 villages until 2025

The development of a rainwater management plan initiated.

Methodologies have been developed for the determination of agglomerations and sensitive areas for the implementation of the requirements of Directive 91/271 / EC for the treatment of municipal wastewater.

Grants were allocated from the National Ecological Fund and 11 wastewater treatment plants and 2 water treatment plants were built and put into operation.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2020, about 65 million m³ of treated wastewater (97.0%) passed through wastewater treatment plants, of which 96.1% were treated mechanically, 95.5% biologically and 2.9% were evacuated without cleaning. In 2019, 68.4 million m³ of treated wastewater (97.2%) went through wastewater treatment plants, of which 96.6% were mechanically treated, 96.2% biologically and 2.6% were discharged without treatment.

In accordance with Government Decision no. 950/2013 on the approval of the Regulation on the requirements for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater in the sewerage and / or emission system for urban and rural localities, maximum permissible limits (DLA) of wastewater pollutants discharged into water resources are established. Based on these limits, appropriate laboratory analyzes are performed to determine the quality of wastewater discharges from treatment plants.

Currently, according to the inventory, there are 271 wastewater treatment plants, of which 152 units have project documentation, the DLA regulations have been approved for 105 units, with insufficient treatment there are 159 stations (about 59%).

During 2021, the water quality was monitored in 22 samples collected from the control sections of 5 rivers and 4 lakes. Laboratory tests were performed to determine the hydrochemical indicators (physico-chemical, O2 regime, biogenic elements of the nitrogen and phosphorus group, main ions, etc.), in which it was found that the water quality is within the limits of quality classes III- V (moderately polluted - very polluted).

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area XII were set the following target

1.	Area XII, sub-para i) of para 2 of Article 6 Part 1 “Disposal or reuse of sludge from centralized sewage systems or from other sewage systems”	Creating a procedure for the reuse of sludge from wastewater treatment plants and from Ecosan toilets for further use in agriculture and land improvement	Legal procedure established by 2017
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The development of a guideline for the management of precipitation from wastewater treatment in the Republic of Moldova has been started, which will be approved by the Government for the national level.

Designed and approved:

Guide on the use of Ecosan products as fertilizers in agriculture in the Republic of Moldova.

Guidelines for the implementation of Ecosan toilets in schools in Moldova.

Guide for managers of educational institutions. Options for improving sanitation systems in rural schools in the Republic of Moldova.

Practical code in construction. Construction of dry toilets with separate collection of excrement.

In accordance with the provisions of the Methodology for the management of sludge in wastewater treatment plants, the sludge can be used in the production

of cement, bricks, tiles, ceramics, glass and asphalt. The use of sludge on agricultural land is currently the most affordable solution for managing sludge, which involves its treatment, the preferred method being anaerobic. This process not only stabilizes the gas by reducing odor and pathogens, but also produces biogas, which can be used as a source of heat and energy in wastewater treatment plants, thus reducing energy demand for them and carbon emissions. The sludge resulting from the biological treatment of wastewater with high humidity can also be incinerated.

With the support of the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, within the ApaSan project, the Guide for the installation of dry toilets with separate faecal collection was developed. The purpose of this guide is to present various options for educational and other public institutions and to provide guidance on choosing the most appropriate sanitation system.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the areas V and VI were set the following target

2.	Area XIII, Article 6, Paa 2 (i) “Quality of wastewater used for irrigation”	Development of standards for the use of wastewater from sewage treatment plants for irrigation	The application by 2022 regulations on the use of wastewater for irrigation
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Norms for the use of wastewater from sewage treatment plants for irrigation have not been developed for this reporting period.

At the request of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in the Dniester River Basin, in the period 2017-2021, the project "Promoting cross-border cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin" was implemented, which was funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by UNDP, OSCE and UNECE.

The project supported the integrated management of water resources in the Dniester river basin to consolidate sustainable development by developing the Cross-Border Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the Strategic Action Plan (SAP).

The following significant anthropogenic pressures and their causes have been identified in the ADT:

- 1. Pollution with organic substances, due to insufficient degree of wastewater treatment or lack of treatment;*
- 2. Nutrient pollution due to inadequate or non-existent wastewater treatment and runoff from agricultural land;*
- 3. Pollution with dangerous substances, the sources of which are municipal and industrial discharges, runoff, pesticides and other hazardous chemicals used in agriculture, as well as accidental pollution and the impact of contaminated territories (deposits, sites, areas, etc.);*
- 4. Hydro morphological changes associated with hydropower, flood protection, and river flow regulation;*
- 5. Pollution with plastic and other household waste.*

The first four loads are defined for most river basins in Europe, while the fifth is specific to the Dniester river basin. In addition, there is the issue of invasive species distribution, as well as the relationship between water quantity and quality associated with climate change, floods, droughts and water scarcity.

The PSA defines measures aimed at reducing the anthropogenic impact on surface and groundwater in the Dniester river basin, as well as developing cooperation between the two countries.

One of PSA's strategic directions is to reduce water pollution from point, diffuse and plastic sources, as well as to prevent accidental pollution.

During the ADT preparation, 98 point sources of pollution were identified (70 municipal, 11 industrial, 17 agricultural).

The implementation of this Strategic Action Program is to be implemented by 2035 by both countries, and the strategic documents in the field of water will be oriented to this joint program.

The first four loads are defined for most river basins in Europe, while the fifth is specific to the Dniester river basin. In addition, there is the issue of invasive species distribution, as well as the relationship between water quantity and quality associated with climate change, floods, droughts and water scarcity.

The PSA defines measures aimed at reducing the anthropogenic impact on surface and groundwater in the Dniester river basin, as well as developing cooperation between the two countries.

One of PSA's strategic directions is to reduce water pollution from point, diffuse and plastic sources, as well as to prevent accidental pollution.

During the ADT preparation, 98 point sources of pollution were identified (70 municipal, 11 industrial, 17 agricultural).

The implementation of this Strategic Action Program is to be implemented by 2035 by both countries, and the strategic documents in the field of water will be oriented to this joint program.

The project for the management program of the Danube - Prut and Black Sea river basin district management for the second cycle (2022-2027) was also elaborated in the process of promotion, which provides:

- *description of existing problems regarding water quality and quantity and actions to solve them;*
- *setting targets for reducing pollution of water bodies and maintaining their ecological status, improving the health of the population, reducing the pressures generated by hydro morphological alterations and adapting to climate change (correct management of drought, floods and rainwater);*
- *application of good agricultural practices against nitrate pollution in agricultural lands;*
- *development of the data management platform and the normative and institutional framework;*
- *monitoring of protected areas, in order to ensure the prevention of water quality deterioration, maintenance and conservation of species living in these areas and minimizing the anthropogenic impact in these areas;*
- *stormwater management, which presents a major danger to the environment being polluted with substances, which has a negative effect on the processes of evaporation, adsorption and biochemical oxidation and by chemical changes greatly reduces water quality.*
- *Hydrological drought management, which is one of the most important and acute types of drought, is a significant reduction in water levels in rivers, reservoirs or groundwater levels compared to the normal level that occurs over a specific period of time for each river basin.*

The implementation of the measures provided in the Program will ensure:

- *achieving good ecological and chemical status, especially for heavily modified and artificial bodies of water for surface waters;*
- *achieving good chemical and quantitative status for groundwater.*

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area XIV were set the following target

·	Area XIV, para 2 (j) of Article 6 "The quality of	1) Achieving the surface water quality indicators used for drinking water supply	1) Achieving quality indicators by
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	waters which are used as sources for drinking water"	with respect to the content of enterococci and E.coli at the level of the 2nd quality class 2) Establishment of the National Register of Public Drinking Water Sources	2025 2) Register set up by 2020
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The main source of drinking water supply in Moldova are groundwater sources, of which about 100% of the rural population and 30% of the urban population, or 65% of the total population of the country. From the surface sources, the most important is the Dniester River, which accounts for 32%, the Prut River - 3%, other surface sources make up 0.2%

The quality of groundwater that is used for drinking water supply is indicated above in other sections. Monitoring of surface water quality, incl. for the Dniester and Prut rivers, which are used for water supply and where there are 11 water intakes, is under responsibility of the National Agency of Public Health and territorial Public Health Centers.

The target level of the quality indicators of surface water used for drinking water supply in terms of the content of enterococci and E. coli to the level: by 2025 to the 2nd quality class - was partially achieved. The results show that in most areas this has been achieved: p. Dniester - 50% corresponds to 1-2 classes, p. Prut - 66% corresponds to 1-2 classes. These data indicate that microbial pollution of the waters of these rivers takes place and is higher in the Nistru river than in the Prut river.

Figure 1 shows the specific weight of water samples for all types of surface water bodies, including rr. Nistru and Prut, non-compliant in terms of microbiological indicators for 2020

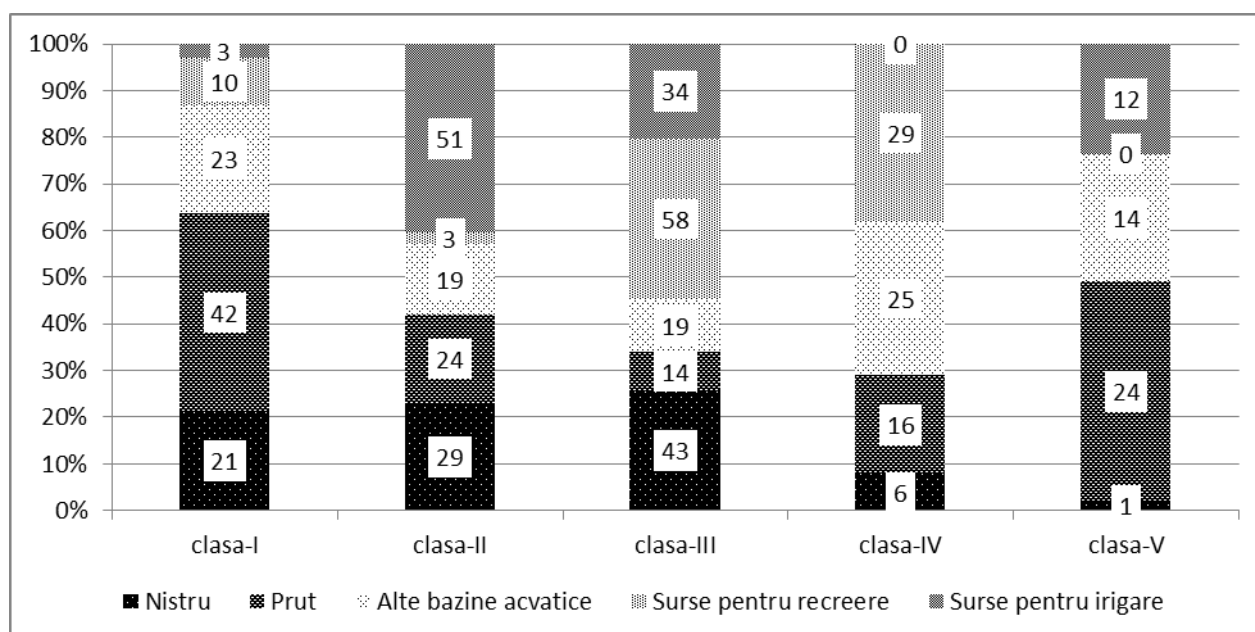


Fig.1. Quality of surface waters on microbiological parameters in 2020.

In 2021 established the National Register of Public Drinking Water Sources, which includes all artesian wells by administrative districts used for drinking or domestic purposes and public water supply systems.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area XV were set the following target

	Area XV, para 2 (j) of Article 6 Part 1 "The quality of waters which are generally used for bathing"	1) Achieving water quality indicators for bathing on the content of enterococci and E.coli at satisfactory quality 2) Setting up the National Register of Bathing sites	1) Achieving quality indicators at all national significant sites by 2020 2) Register set up by 2020
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Achievements of targets for this section:

- 1. Achievement of water quality indicators for bathing on the content of enterococci and E. coli to the level of satisfactory quality by 2020. On all bathing sites of national importance - partially implemented. According to the results of the conducted research on the water quality of the Dniester and Prut rivers in the places used for bathing for the period of 2019-2021, microbiological indicators do not comply in 23% and, respectively, 19% of samples.***
- 2. Setting of the National Register of bathing sites by 2020 – is under completion, this registry is available in the paper format, also in Microsoft Excel format.***

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

Republic of Moldova it's a landlocked country, by the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area XVI weren't set a target, due to low relevance of this issue.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area XVII were set the following target

	<p>Area XVII, para 2 (k) of Article 6 Part 1 "Application of recognized good practice in the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing "</p>	<p>1) National regulatory framework established for the quality of enclosed waters generally available for bathing 2) Establishment of the National Register of enclosed waters (swimming-pools) generally available for bathing</p>	<p>1) Sanitary Regulation on water quality and requirements for swimming pools generally available for bathing in accordance with WHO recommendations developed by 2018 2) Register set up by 2020</p>
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The Ministry of Health developed a new draft in 2020 of Sanitary Regulations on swimming pools, in accordance with WHO recommendations, but due the interim Government in 2021, still wasn't approved, we expect to be adopted till the end of 2022.

Setting of the National Register of enclosed waters (swimming-pools) generally available for bathing by 2020 – is under implementation, this registry is available in the paper format, not in an electronic one, and the format of the Registry is provided in the Sanitary Regulation.

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

(1)

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area XVIII were set the following target

6.	Area XVIII, subparagraph 1) of clause 2 of Article 6, “Identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites”	Mapping areas of areas particularly contaminated with pesticides, petroleum products and other chemicals	100% mapping of areas of particularly polluted areas until 2020. Their decontamination until 2025
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Law no. 277 of November 29, 2018 on chemicals that establishes new approaches to the management of substances, mixtures and chemicals in accordance with European standards and is aimed at the coordinated implementation of the commitments made by the Republic of Moldova after ratifying international environmental treaties regulating chemicals, stocks and waste. and the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova, on the one hand, and the European Union.

Supported by the FAO project Improving the Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from the Former Soviet Area as a Pesticide Prevention Model, 303 tons of pesticide waste, 1.7 tons of polluted pesticides and 1.9 tons of contaminated waste were exported to the EU for final disposal. . Thus, we note that the country has completed the process of final disposal of obsolete pesticides, being one of the first countries in Eastern Europe that successfully completed this process.

Waste stocks of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which contain a range of organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and some industrial pollutants, including dioxins and furans, have extremely high harmful qualities, a high degree of degradation resistance and accumulation properties. In living organisms and the environment, they can be easily transported in the atmosphere over long distances, they can affect health and the environment, either near or far from their sources.

In order to reduce the environmental impact of unusable pesticide stocks and POP-contaminated stocks, a number of measures have been taken to implement Moldova's commitments following the ratification of international environmental treaties governing chemicals, stocks and their waste. .

According to the available data and the controls carried out by the territorial subdivisions of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, remnants of unusable pesticides were found stored in: Falesti district, Hitrești village - 1,100 tons; Briceni district, Beleavinți village - 1,200 tons; mun. Balti: S.A. "Corn" - 27,885 tons, Cahul district, Iujnoe village - 0.300 tons; Floresti district: Mărculești village - 7.0 tons, Ștefănești village - 2.0 tons, Prăjila village - 14,275 liters, 40 tons, Cunicea village - 3.0 tons, Vărvăreuca village - 2.5 tons liquids and 3.0 solid tons, Prodănești village - 3.0 tons. The pesticides found are in a solid and liquid state and in most cases are stored in polyethylene packaging, metal and plastic containers, in some cases mixed with soil. The locations are different: non-compliant warehouses, rooms managed by economic agents, without security.

In order to decontaminate the lands contaminated with pesticides from the POP category, several projects have been implemented by isolating the contaminated materials in sarcophagi.

Thus, the POP waste isolation sarcophagus near the village of Congaz (ATU Gagauzia) was organized in 2008 at a distance of about 3 km from the locality. The volume of buried waste is: 1014 m.c. construction waste from the former chemical depot and 786 m.c. of contaminated soil. The land is partially fenced, in a satisfactory condition.

In the commune of Step-Soci, Orhei district, in 2009 the project "Landfill (sarcophagus) for waste isolation with persistent organic compounds" was implemented. The work was funded by the Canadian Foundation and implemented by NIRAS Engineering and Consulting Company (Denmark). Perennial acacia trees and perennial grasses grow on the perimeter of the sarcophagus.

After the evacuation of unusable pesticides from the Bujor village landfill, Hîncești district, the construction materials of the landfill and the contaminated soil were buried in a sarcophagus with an area of 100 m.p. near the former chemical depot. The ground is not fenced, the condition of the sarcophagus is satisfactory.

The sarcophagus for the isolation of waste and soil contaminated with POP in Tătărești village, Straseni district was built on an area of 0.25 ha according to the

execution project, approved positively by the opinion of the state ecological expertise no.05-5-3833 / 164 of 12.01.2012. The design and construction works were financed from the National Ecological Fund in the amount of 194715.9 lei. At the moment, the land where the chemical depot was demolished is level, growing perennial plants. The sarcophagus is partially fenced, grassy.

With regard to clean-up activities and mitigating the risks associated with unusable and banned pesticide stocks in the Transnistrian region:

Following the completion in 2019 of the negotiation activities with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - OSCE Mission to Moldova and the implementation of project development activities for the destruction abroad (at a specialized facility in Germany) about 600 tons of pesticide waste accumulated in Transnistrian region, was signed on October 4, 2019 Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the former Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment on the implementation of the project "Elimination and destruction of unusable pesticides in the Transnistrian region of Moldova. Phase 2".

Thus, by the end of 2020, in this project, 406.6 tons of unusable and banned pesticides from about 600 were repackaged from the territory of 23 localities in the Transnistrian region and exported to the incineration plant in Germany (Remondis Sava GmbH). tons planned to be removed from the entire Transnistrian territory. Planned activities continued in 2021.

Within the project "Reduction of risks related to the landfill of hazardous waste Cismichioi", initiated by Deconta Company, based on a contract signed with the Czech Development Agency, the Ministry of Environment and the National Agency for Food Safety during 2019 works were carried out sealing of the polygon of unusable pesticides with an area of 2.4 ha in the village of Cismichioi, Vulcănești district. Thus all 14 sarcophagi with unusable pesticides were insulated with layers of clay and impermeable membrane, then the entire surface was technically recultivated.

The soil contaminated with toxic oils from the "Vulcănești 400 kV" transformer station was buried in 4 sarcophagi. The land is grassy on an area of 1600 m.p., acacia trees are planted. In order to decontaminate this location, soil samples will be taken to determine the degree of pollution and develop a project for this purpose.

Also by the economic agent S.R.L. "Ecorecycling" was completed in 2020 the export to Romania about 30.51 (metric tons) of waste from transformers and switches contaminated with PCB (without oil content).

Economic agents, owners of PCB-containing installations, are obliged to manage this equipment in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on polychlorinated biphenyls, approved by Government Decision no. 81/2009. Thus, in 2020 B.C. "Premier Energy Distribution" SRL in accordance with the notification on transboundary transportation of hazardous waste sent to the Romanian third company "AetCar" the quantity of 20.04 tons of PCB to be transported to Germany for decontamination and final disposal of waste in this category. The activities of

remediation of the lands contaminated with the petroleum products from the ex-Soviet air base Mărculești, in particular of the underground waters, in the area Mărculești - Lunga continue.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

The impact of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) on the environment is quite high because WEEE contains substances that are particularly hazardous to the environment and health, if not collected separately and recycled according to standards, such as: lead, mercury, chromium, halogen substances.

In order to protect the environment and the health of the population, to prevent the formation of hazardous waste, the placing on the market of electrical and electronic equipment exceeding the values of maximum weight concentrations of 0.1% for mercury, lead, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls and ethers is prohibited. of diphenyl polybrominated and of 0.01% for cadmium, except for the equipment for which derogations are established, according to the normative acts approved by the Government.

With the approval of the Regulation on waste electrical and electronic equipment by Government Decision no. 212/2018, in the list of producers of electrical and electronic waste until 31.12.2020, 28 economic agents were registered.

In order to implement the extended responsibility of the producer regarding the management of WEEE was organized the Collective System Union of legal entities "Eco-Green" (founders of ME "Orange" S.A. and SRL "Sun Communications"), which performs the collection of WEEE through the centers collection points organized by the partner stores' networks or at the distribution points of the manufacturers in the system (40 collection points). The collected WEEE will be handed over to S.A. "Greenwee International" from Țîntești commune, Buzău county, Romania. The Collective System of the Employers' Association "Moldcontrol" was organized with 6 WEEE collection points.

In the project "Clean city with recycled e-waste" launched by A.O. "Association for Waste Recovery" with the support of the GEF SGP Moldova Small Grants Program in Chisinau, 80 medium-sized dumpsters were installed inside public, private and academic institutions and 8 other large outdoor dumpsters, 7 of them placed on the territory of BEMOL filling stations and within the company Riolit Sistem.

A map of collection points has been created, which makes it easy to identify the nearest point for collecting e-waste. Currently, 128 WEEE collection points are organized, which are to be exported to GreenWEEE Buzau, Romania.

Chemical management

At present, the Republic of Moldova produces a narrow spectrum of chemicals, mostly oriented towards the domestic market, namely: pharmaceuticals, dyes, varnishes and paints, perfumery products and preparations. Chemicals are used in the production of paper, in the light industry, the building materials industry, the food industry, including wine, and so on. However, most of the country's chemical needs are covered

by imports. The main imported chemicals are: chemical fertilizers, pesticides, various raw materials, products and substances for the processing industry and for other industries.

During 2020, by the territorial inspections jointly with the representatives of the National Agency for Food Safety, 54 economic agents, managers of phytosanitary products and fertilizers were verified. These products are stored in specially arranged warehouses, authorized in the established manner, intended exclusively for the storage of these products. The storage and storage of plant protection products and fertilizers is carried out in accordance with the Regulation on the management of plant protection products and fertilizers in the national economy, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. Farm shops, storage facilities for phytosanitary products and fertilizers, services for the application of phytosanitary products and fertilizers, services for the treatment of seeds and propagating material, arranged and equipped in accordance with regulatory requirements, including environmental protection requirements are authorized in within a joint commission, with the participation of the territorial environmental subdivisions.

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

For each target set in this area:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area XIX were set the following target

	Area XIX, paragraph 2 (m) of Article 6 "Effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources	Availability of resource management plans for the Dniester and Prut river basins	Development of plans for 2017
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2 plans for the basin district were developed and approved in accordance with the Law on Water No. 272/2011:

Management Plan for the Dniester Basin District, Government Decree No. 814/2017.

Management Plan for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea Basin District, Government Decision no.955 / 2018.

Development of plans for flood and drought risk prevention initiated.

The elaboration of the projects of the Management programs of the Dniester and Danube - Prut and Black Sea river basins for the second cycle are initiated, in accordance with the provisions of article 19 of the Water Law no. 272/2011 on the revision of the river basin district management programs every 6 years and the Government Decision no. 866/2013 for the approval of the Regulation on the procedure for elaboration and revision of the River Basin District Management Plan, which establishes its revision every 6 years.

The implementation of the measures provided in these Programs will ensure:

- achieving good ecological and chemical status, especially for heavily modified and artificial bodies of water for surface waters;*
- achieving good chemical and quantitative status for groundwater.*

New elements of stormwater management and drought management are included.

XX. Additional national or local specific targets

In cases where additional targets have been set, for each target:

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

By the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016 for adoption of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, for the area XX were set the following target

·	Area XX, Additional national or local specific targets The frequency of the publication of information on the quality of the drinking water supplied and of other waters relevant to the	1) Publication of the National Report on Drinking Water Quality	Every three years
		2) Publication of the Report on Bathing Water Quality	Every two years
		3) Publication of the National Report on the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health	Every three years, prior MOP

	targets in this paragraph in the intervals between the publication of information under article 7, paragraph 2.	4) Development and publication shing the National Report on the state of the environment	Every three years
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With regard to the achievement of targets for this section, the following should be noted:

- 1. The publication of the National Report on drinking water the quality - every 3 years - completed. Currently, annual processed nationwide data on drinking water and surface water quality of are published in the annual Report of Public Health Surveillance, produced by the National Agency for Public Health, as well available on the website www.ansp.md. This report also contain data on bathing water quality. According to new Law on Drinking Water Quality nr.182/2019, will be developed a standalone nation Report on DWQ.*
- 2. Publication of the National Report on the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health –completed evry 3 years,*
- 3. At National Public Health Agency was created Information Center “Clearing House” under the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova. Center provides information on the quality of drinking water, on access to improved water supply and sanitation systems, organizes and holds various meetings with NGOs and local authorities on the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, distributes information materials and conducts information campaigns.*
- 4. In November 2021 organized a National Conference on Environmental Health, a dedicated edition of this event was published with materials of the Conference.*

Part three

Common indicators¹

I. Quality of the drinking water supplied

1. Context of the data

1. What is the population coverage (in millions or per cent of total national population) of the water supplies reported under sections 2 and 3 below?

The rationale of this question is to understand the population coverage of the water quality data reported under sections 2 and 3 below.

Please describe the type of water supplies for which data is included in the following tables, and the population share covered by these supplies.

Please also clarify the source of the water quality data provided (e.g., data from regulatory authorities).

2. Please specify from where the water quality samples reported in sections 2 and 3 below are primarily taken (e.g., treatment plant outlet, distribution system or point of consump*The rationale of this question is to understand where the samples were primarily taken from for the water quality data reported in sections 2 and 3 below.*

¹ In order to allow an analysis of trends for all Parties under the Protocol, please use wherever possible 2005 — the year of entry into force of the Protocol — as the baseline year.

3. In sections 2 and 3 below, the standards for compliance assessment signify the national standards. If national standards for reported parameters deviate from the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline values, please provide information on the standard values.

The rationale of this question is to understand any possible differences between the national standards for microbiological and chemical water quality parameters and the respective WHO guideline values.²

2. Bacteriological quality

4. Please indicate the percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). Parties may also report on up to three other priority microbial indicators and/or pathogens that are subject to routine water quality monitoring.

If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by "non-centralized versus centralized" water supplies or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the column "area/category" in the table below accordingly.

The main problems with quality for water from artesian wells groundwater throughout the country are high levels of fluoride (2-14 mg / l), sodium (200-560 mg / l) and ammonium (2-10 mg / l) in almost all geographic areas, but most often in the Central region; hydrogen sulfide (3-6 mg / l); iron (0.3 - 2.5 mg / l) and for shallow waters – high levels of nitrates and microbial contamination.

A slight improvement is observed in the studied microbiological parameters in all sources and systems of drinking water, which amounted to E. coli - 10.4% in 2021 compared with 12.4% in 2018, for Enterococci – alsoan improvement is noticed -10% compared with 12% in 2018. At the same time, it should be noted that about 60% of non compliant to quality standards, samples, were taken from groundwater wells.

Table 1

The proportion of non-compliance of drinking water by microbiological parameters, annual samples

Tested parameters	Baseline values when becoming a Party to the Protocol, 2005	Intermediate values 2015	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) 2018	Current values 2021
E.coli	12,6%	14,5%	12,4%	10,4%
Enterococci	9,6%	15,1%	12,0%	10,0%

Source: National Report on the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova, 2018, National Public Health Agency, 2018, www.ansp.md

Table 3

The proportion of non-compliance of drinking water by microbiological parameters, annual samples, by various types of water supply and sources

	The proportion of water samples non compliant to microbiological parameters (%)										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	

² The latest edition of the WHO *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality* is available at: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/dwq-guidelines-4/en/

	2010										
Urban water supply systems from ground waters	12,7	9,9	10,8	8,2	9,2	10,7	8,2	17,4	15,1%	14,8	15%
Rural water supply systems	16,7	14,1	14,2	14,6	17,6	19,6	14,5	26,1	15,3	20	24%
Urban water supply systems from surface waters	6,9	3,3	0,8	1,9	3,4	5,0	1,8	4,6	2,6	3,9	3,6
Wells	41,2	38,3	39,8	36,2	36,3	47,7	38,0	49,9	47	46,6	49

Source: National Public Health Surveillance Report, . National Public Health Agency, 2018

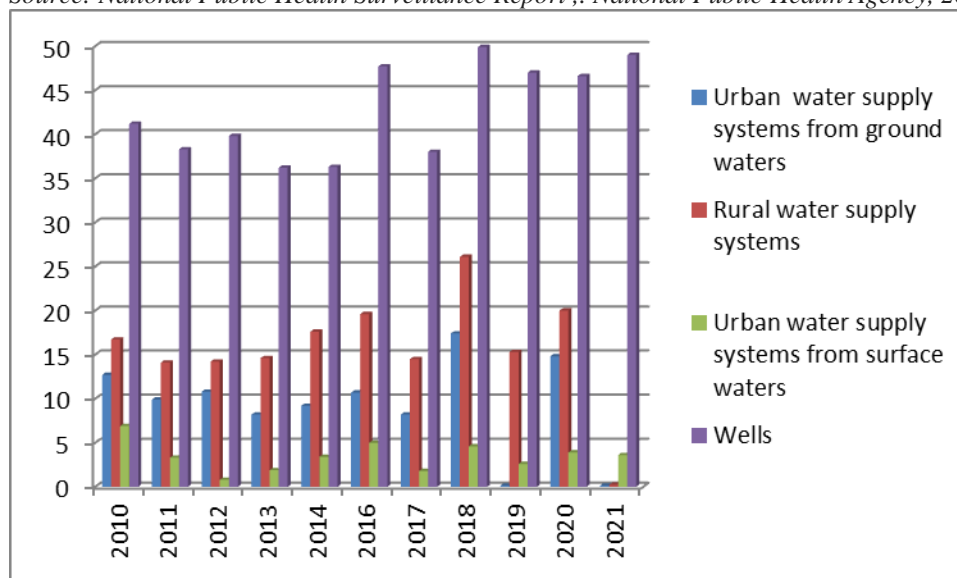


Fig. 2. The proportion of non-compliance of drinking water by microbiological parameters, annual samples, by various types of water supply and sources

The proportion of water samples from water supply systems and wells that do not meet sanitary standards remains elevated according to chemical and microbiological parameters for various types of systems and drinking water sources, as follows from the tables below:

Table 2

The proportion of non-compliance of drinking water by chemical parameters, annual samples, for various types of water supply systems and sources

	The proportion of water samples non compliant to sanitary and chemical parameters, (%)											
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Urban water supply systems from ground sources	41,4	43,7	44,5	39,4	37,7	40	38,7	39,6	49,4	49	49,3	49
Urban water supply systems from surface sources	13,5	10,4	8,27	5,89	12,2	21	13,1	6,67	13,4	13	13,2	10

Rural water supply systems	49,3	51,6	61,5	51,3	54,9	53	56,9	51,3	59,7	46	47,4	48
Wells	84,2	82,9	84	79,6	76,5	82	76,7	79,4	73,6	68	68,7	70

Source: National Public Health Surveillance Report, National Public Health Agency, 2021, www.ansp.md

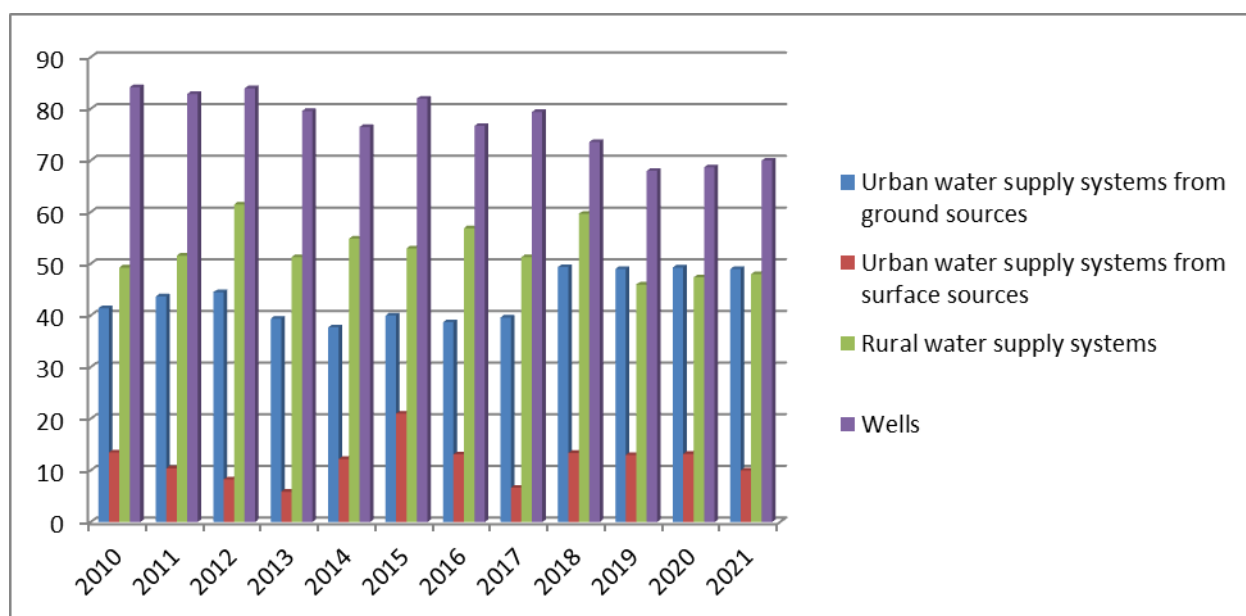


Fig.3 The proportion of non-compliance of drinking water by chemical parameters, annual samples, for various types of water supply systems and sources

The quality of drinking water in terms of chemical and microbiological parameters since the entry into force of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016–2025 and to the present is shown in Tables 5 and 6. The presented data indicates a small decrease in the percentage of water samples that do not meet standards for microbiological parameters and more significant decrease in the percentage of non-compliance for chemical parameters.

Table 5

The proportion of non-compliance of drinking water by microbiological parameters in schools and kindergartens, annual samples

	Initial values, when the actions on the Protocol started, 2005.	Intermediate values, 2015.	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) 2018	Current values, 2021
E.coli	-	12,8%	20,4%	18%
Enterococci	-	15,1%	17,7%	16,2%

Source: Source: National Public Health Surveillance Report, National Public Health Agency, 2021, www.ansp.md

Table 6

The proportion of non-compliance of drinking water by chemical parameters in schools and institutions, annual samples, by various types of water supply and sources

	The proportion of non-compliance samples of drinking water by sanitary chemical parameters in schools, (%)

	2015	2018	2021
Water supply systems with all types of sources	60,0	39,8	37
Wells	64,7	61,7	50

Source: National Public Health Surveillance Report, National Public Health Agency, 2021, www.ansp.md

If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.

Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.

Parameter	Area/category	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
<i>E. coli</i>	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 1:	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 2:	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 3:	Total			
	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:

- (a) Arsenic;
- (b) Fluoride;
- (c) Lead
- (d) Nitrate.

6. Please also identify up to three additional chemical parameters that are of priority in the national or local context.

If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” sanitation systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the column “area/category” in the table below accordingly.

If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.

Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.

The quality of drinking water according to 5 main and 5 additional chemical parameters since the entry into force of the Protocol until current time is presented in Table 4. The presented data indicates a significant decrease in the percentage of water samples that do not comply according to the content of boron, nitrates and dry residue, and growth by turbidity and the content of iron, fluoride and ammonia.

Table 4

Dynamics of development of the proportion of samples that do not meet sanitary standards for basic and additional chemical indicators of drinking water quality, established according to WHO recommendations

Parameter	Initial values (%), 2005	Intermediate values (%), 2009	Intermediate values (%), 2015 %	Intermediate values (%), 2018	Current values (%), 2021
Fluoride	11,1%	14,5%	15,7	16,5	14
Nitrites and Nitrates	53%	42,7%	33,86	23,5	21,2
Arsenic	0%	0%	0	0	0
Lead	0%	1,3%	0	0	0
Iron	6,5%	11,1%	9,8	6,0	7,4
Additional chemical indicators:					
Boron	3%	6,5%	31,5	24,7	19
Manganese	1,7%	5,95%	2,5	0,5	1
Turbidity	4%	4,1%	3,8	4,3	4,2
Ammonium	6,5%	27,2%	29,5	32,6	30
TDS	29,5%	25,3%	24	21,6	23

Source: National Report on Public Health Surveillance, National Public Health Agency, 2021

Parameter	Area/category	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
e	Arsenic	Total		
		Urban		
		Rural		
	Fluorid	Total		
		Urban		
		Rural		
Lead	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Nitrate	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 1: ...	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 2: ...	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
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Parameter	Category	Area/city (specify year)	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
Additional parameter 3:	Total				
	Urban				
	Rural				

II. Outbreaks and incidence of infectious diseases related to water

In filling out the below table, please consider the following points:

- (a) For reporting outbreaks, please report confirmed water-related outbreaks only (i.e., for which there is epidemiological or microbiological evidence for water to have facilitated infection);
- (b) For reporting incidents, please report the numbers related to all exposure routes. In your response:
 - (i) Please report cases per 100,000 population;
 - (ii) Please differentiate between zero incidents (0) and no data available (-).

Please extend the list of water-related diseases, to the extent possible, to cover other relevant pathogens (e.g., enteric viruses, *Giardia intestinalis*, *Vibrio cholerae*).

Please indicate how the information is collected (e.g., event-based or incidence-based surveillance).

Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.

Table 7

The level of infectious morbidity, potentially water related

	Morbidity per 100 000 population					Number of outbreaks		
	Initial value, 2005	Intermediate values, 2009	Intermediate values, 2015	Intermediate values, 2018	Current values, 2021	Initial values, 2005	Intermediate values, 2018	Current values, 2021
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bacterial dysentery (shigellosis)	54,19	13,0	3,12	14,34	0,06	0	0	0
(EHEC)	0	5,52	4,53	8,06	2,65	0	0	0
Viral hepatitis A	30,7	0,22	7,82	18,03	0,51	0	0	0
Typhoid fever	0,06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legionellosis	0	0	0	0,03	0	0	0	0
Rotaviral infection		21,97	5,09	2,90	0,82	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis		1,74	0,2	0,20	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis		6,07	3,26	2,48	1,16	0	0	0

Source: National Report on Public Health Surveillance, National Public Health Agency, 2021

In order to prepare for public health emergencies, the Government created the National Emergency Commission on Public Health, which decides on the introduction, suspension and abolition of isolation and / or quarantine measures at national level and at district level in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

As part of the National Agency for Public Health, a Public Health Emergency Management Center has been created, with a department for monitoring cases of public health hazards and disease reports, working 27/7 and ensuring coordination of all health sectors in case of emergencies. In the event of three or more cases of water-related diseases, it is necessary to report them within 24 hours, by order of the Minister of Health.

In Republic of Moldova is applied incidence-based surveillance of infectious diseases, data are generated by Information system on Communicable disease. As mentioned in table 7, incidence decreases almost for all disease more than 10 times. We explain than as a result of implementation of anti-Covid-19 prevention measures during pandemic period, which includes disinfection and hand hygiene.

Disease	Incidence rate per 100,000 population (all exposure routes)			Number of outbreaks (confirmed water-borne outbreaks)		
	B aseline (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)	B aseline reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
Shigellosis						
Enterohaemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i> infection						
Typhoid fever						
Viral hepatitis A						
Legionellosis						
Cryptosporiosis						
Additional disease 1:						
Additional disease 2:						

III. Access to drinking water

If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” water supply systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.

If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.

Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data with regard to access to drinking water.

The level of public access to improved drinking water sources, starting in 2005, has increased substantially and is shown in Table 8, (%).

Table 8

Percentage of public access to all types of improved drinking water supply systems

	2005	2009	2015	2018	2021
Urban population	92	93	96	97,3	98
Rural population	17	27	39	45,1	48
Total	45	55	63	68,4	70

Source: National Report on the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova, National Agency for Public Health, 2021

In 2021, according to the data of National Agency for Public Health, access to improved drinking water supply systems was provided for 70% of the population, including 98% of the urban population and 48% of the rural population.

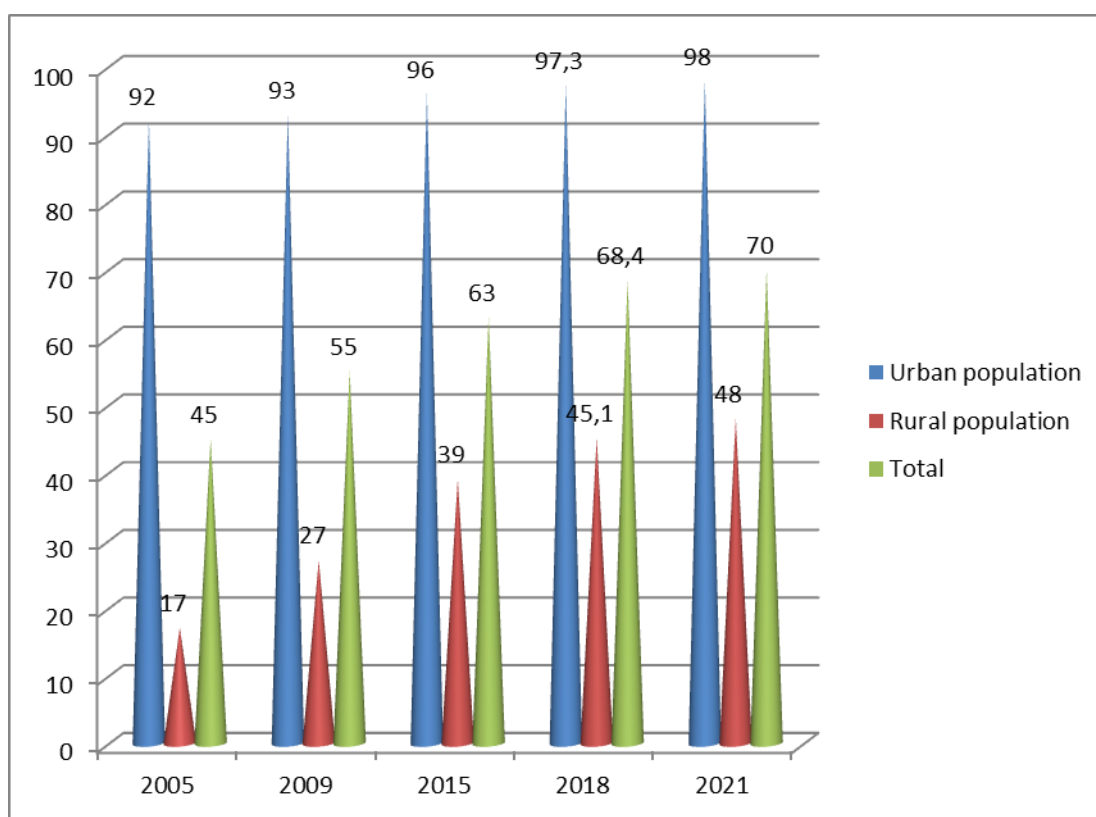


Fig 4. The proportion of public access to water supply systems in urban and rural areas in the Republic of Moldova.

Percentage of population with access to drinking water	Baseline value (specify year) 2005	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) 2018	Current value (specify year) 2021

Percentage of population with access to drinking water	Baseline value (specify year) 2005	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) 2018	Current value (specify year) 2021
Total	45	68,4	70
Urban	92	97,3	98
Rural	17	45,1	48

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>.*

γ 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

If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” sanitation systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.

If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.

Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data with regard to access to sanitation.

Percentage of population with access to sanitation	Baseline value (specify year), 2005	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year) 2018	Current value (specify year) 2021
Total	53.6%	74	75,6%
Urban	81.6%	88	89%
Rural	35%	70	72%

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):

- YES** 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

1. On the basis of national systems of water classification, please indicate the percentage of water bodies or the percentage of the volume (preferably) of water³ falling under each defined class (e.g., for European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive⁴ classification, the percentage of surface waters of high, good, moderate, poor and bad ecological status, and the percentage of groundwaters/surface waters of good or poor chemical status; for other countries, in classes I, II, III, etc.).

(a) For European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive classification

(i) Ecological status of surface water bodies

Percentage of surface water classified as:	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
		2018	2021
High status		0	0
Good status		0	2,3
Moderate status		24	35,7
Poor status		27	19
Bad status		49	43
Total number/volume of water bodies classified		10	42
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country			

(ii) Chemical status of surface water bodies

Percentage of surface water bodies classified as	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
		2018	2021
Good status		5%	15%
Poor status		95%	85%
Total number/volume of water bodies classified		72	
monitoring stations or water bodies			
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country			

³ Please specify.

⁴ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

The Environmental Agency is the main national responsible institution for hydrobiological, hydrochemical and hydrological monitoring of surface waters (Regulation on monitoring and systematic monitoring of surface and groundwater conditions, Government Decree No. 932 of 11/20/2013). With the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (Government Decree no. 549 of 13.06.2018 on the establishment, organization and functioning of the Environmental Protection Agency), the Agency has taken over the task of monitoring surface water quality from 2019.

Monitoring of surface water quality in the Republic of Moldova began in the 60s of the last century, but its systematic and complete character was acquired only in the 1980s, with emphasis on monitoring transboundary rivers. The main purpose of monitoring is to determine the level of pollution of surface waters, identify cases of exceptional or severe pollution, monitor sources of pollution and timely notify local and central authorities authorized to make decisions to eliminate or mitigate the effects.

For 2021, the surface water monitoring program included 72 sampling sites on 34 rivers, 6 reservoirs and 2 natural lakes after 72 hydrochemical parameters and 7 hydrobiological elements. In subsequent years, due to poor funding, the monitoring program was limited to 58 sampling sites (2018) on 21 rivers, 6 reservoirs and 2 natural lakes.

During this period, the quality of surface waters was assessed in accordance with the Regulation on Environmental Requirements for Surface Waters (GD no. 890 of November 22, 2013). There is a tendency to deterioration of water quality in some parts of the Dniester River - c. Santeuka, Kamenka district; the Dubasari basin - the town of Rezina, the Raut river - the town of Floresti (upstream), the town of Orhei (upstream), the Prut river - the town of Leova, the town of Cahul and the village of Giurgiulesti; the river Lapushna - the village Lapushna; the river Larga - the village of Kirkan; and for the following monitoring stations there is a slight improvement trend: the Dniester River - the city of Vadul lui Voda, the village of Palanca; Ghidighici basin - Vatra town, Ciuhur - Gorodiste village; Cuhuresti river - Zaikan village, r. Camenka - vil. Camenka; Lake Manta - vil. Manta; Cohalnic river - Hincesti town (upstream); Ialpuh River - vil. Mirnoie.

The water quality of the Dniester, Prut and Danube rivers has not undergone major changes and is characterized by moderate (class III) pollution or, rarely, heavily polluted (class IV), in particular, due to nutrients, copper compounds, phenols, and petroleum products.

Of the 72 sampling sites monitored for water quality over the past 3 years: 2,3% have a good quality status, 35,7% have a moderately polluted ecological status, 19% are polluted and 43% are heavily polluted. Compared with previous report, water quality improved and pollution decrease.

(iii) Status of groundwaters

The total volume of operational reserves of groundwater in accordance with the State Water Cadastre of the Republic of Moldova, which includes data on the main characteristics and indicators of the quantitative and qualitative state of groundwater, is 3478.6 thousand m³ / day, and the estimated resources are 77.9 thousand m³ / day.

These reserves belong to the main horizons and water complexes in the amount of 10, identified and characterized on the territory of the republic as a result of detailed hydrogeological studies, which in turn were separated into 20 water bodies, respectively, 8 water bodies within the Dniester River basin and 12 bodies within the Danube-Prut river basin and the Black Sea.

The condition regarding the quality of water bodies is obtained as a result of groundwater monitoring through the national network of monitoring wells. Changes in the values of qualitative and quantitative elements were not fixed; accordingly, the

“good condition” of the controlled water bodies was determined. The risk of not achieving good status exists in the first aquifers from the surface, namely in the alluvial-deluvial aquifer of the Holocene age and the Pliocene-Pleistocene aquifer complex, which are not sufficiently protected, which consequently contributes to the pollution of the surface.

The existing network of monitoring wells does not include all water bodies, in the sense that it is necessary to update the monitoring network and use modern methods of sampling, analysis and synthesis, which would allow a consistent assessment of trends to change quality aspects and quantitative bodies, as well as the sustainable management and exploitation of groundwater resources.

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as</i>	<i>Value</i>	
	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Good quantitative status		
Good chemical status		
Poor quantitative status		
Poor chemical status		
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified		
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country		

(b) For other countries

(i) Status of surface waters

<i>Percentage of surface water falling under class^a</i>	<i>Value</i>	
	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
I		
II		
III		
IV		
V		
Total number/volume of water bodies classified		
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country		

^a Rename and modify the number of rows to reflect the national classification system.

(ii) *Status of groundwaters*

Percentage of groundwaters falling under class ^a	Value		Current value (specify year)
	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	
I			
II			
III			
IV			
V			
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified			
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country			

^a Rename and modify the number of rows to reflect the national classification system.

2. Please provide any other information that will help put into context and aid understanding of the information provided above (e.g., coverage of information provided if not related to all water resources, how the quality of waters affects human health).

2. Water use

3. Please provide information on the water exploitation index at the national and river basin levels for each sector (agriculture, industry, domestic), i.e., the mean annual abstraction of freshwater by sector divided by the mean annual total renewable freshwater resource at the country level, expressed in percentage terms.

Water exploitation index	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
		2017	2020
Agriculture		78	90
Industry ^a		583	583
Domestic use ^b		113	112

^a Please specify whether the figure includes both water abstraction for manufacturing industry and for energy cooling.

^b Please specify whether the figure only refers to public water supply systems or also to individual supply systems (e.g., wells).

In 2017, in the Republic of Moldova, water resources with a total volume of 777 million m3 were used, including: the domestic use - 113 million m3 or 14,5%, the agricultural sector, including irrigation - 78 million m3 or 10%, industrial sector - 583 million m3 or 75%.

In 2020, in the Republic of Moldova, water resources with a total volume of 787 million m3 were used, including: the domestic use - 112 million m3 or 14%, the agricultural sector, including irrigation - 90 million m3 or 11,4%, industrial sector - 583 million m3 or 74%. For this period we see a slight increase only in agricultural sector.

Water basins in the Republic of Moldova are classified in accordance with the provisions of Article No. 2 of the Water Law No. 272 of December 23, 2011, by volume of water as follows: reservoirs (water volume over 1 million m3) and ponds (water volume up to 1 million m3).

According to the inventory of water basins (information collected and presented by district councils), in 2020 in the Republic of Moldova 3900 water basins were registered, including 126 storage lakes.

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

2. If yes or in progress, please provide summary information about key elements of the water-related disease surveillance and outbreak response systems (e.g., identification of water-related disease outbreaks and incidents, notification, communication to the public, data management and reporting). Please also provide reference to existing national legislation and/or regulations addressing water-related disease surveillance and outbreak response.

3. Please describe what actions have been taken in your country in the past three years to improve and/or sustain water-related disease surveillance, early warning systems and contingency plans, as well as to strengthen the capacity of public authorities to respond to water-related disease outbreaks and incidents, in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Protocol.

Please see Part II, target area II

Part five

Progress achieved in implementing other articles of the Protocol

Please provide a short description of the status of implementation of articles 9 to 14 of the Protocol, as relevant.

Suggested length: up to two pages

Based on the development measures of the sector mentioned in the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy, the Ministries of Environment and of Regional Development and Infrastructure contributes to the further education and development of the skills of all participants in this field.

The project “Strengthening the institutional sector of water supply and sanitation”, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Austrian Development Agency, organized training courses for 200 people, representatives of water supply operators in 4 different modules. The Institute of Continuing Education in the field of water supply and sewage and the Technical University of Moldova organized and conducted retraining of personnel on the maintenance and operation of water supply and sewage systems in order to build capacity and provide quality services to citizens. The association of Moldovan water utilities in its activities contributes to the training and retraining of personnel of field operators.

With the help of development partners and with the support of the Ministry of Environment, a plan was developed for the period 2019-2021 for training specialists in

key specialties of operators, as well as the exchange of experience with the neighboring country Romania, an EU member.

With the support of the project “Environmental Protection of International River Basins”, the Management Plan for the Danube-Prut and the Black Sea Basin District for the period 2018–2023 has been developed and new concepts are being prepared together with the beneficiaries. At the same time, the development of the second cycle of the plan has begun, during which the separation of groundwater and water bodies in the riverbed of the Prut River will be developed jointly with the Romanian side.

Also, within the framework of the project, work continues with the secretariat of the Danube Convention on the establishment of a tripartite working group with Romania and Ukraine on the Prut river basin and in the future to develop a joint Prut River Basin Management Plan. (<http://euwipluseast.eu/index.php/en/>).

Part six

Thematic part linked to priority areas of work under the Protocol

1. Water, sanitation and hygiene in institutional settings

1. In the table below, please provide information on the proportion of schools (primary and secondary) and health-care facilities that provide basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

Basic services refer to the following:

(a) *Basic sanitation service: Improved facilities (according to JMP definition), which are sex-separated and usable at the school or health-care facility;*

(b) *Basic drinking water service: Water from an improved source (according to JMP definition) is available at the school or health-care facility;*

(c) *Basic hygiene service: Handwashing facility with water and soap available to students (schools) or patients and health-care providers (health-care facilities).*

If the above definitions/categories do not apply in your country, please report for alternative categories for which data are available. In this case, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.

Please indicate the source of data. If data is not available, please put (-).

<i>Institutional setting</i>	<i>Current value (specify year) 2021</i>
<i>Schools</i>	
Basic sanitation service	88
Basic drinking-water service	100
Basic hygiene service	90
<i>Health-care facilities</i>	
Basic sanitation service	80
Basic drinking-water service	99
Basic hygiene service	90

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

YES Y NO IN PROGRESS

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

YES NO IN PROGRESS Y

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

Y To improve WASH in schools

Y To improve WASH in health-care facilities

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

National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 years, adopted by the Government Decision # 1063 of 16 September 2016

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

7. If yes, please provide reference to relevant national policy(ies) or regulatory documentation.

The National Guidelines for the Development of a Water Safety Plans for drinking water supply systems have been approved by the joint Order of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment Nr. 609/65 of July 21, 2017.

In accordance with the provisions of the National Program for the Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016–2025, adopted by Government Decision No. 1063 of September 19, 2016, the development of a Water Safety Plan for drinking water supply systems is one of the national objectives that needs to be gradually achieved so that by 2025, the principle of safe drinking water should be applied in all rural localities and cities with a population of over 2,000 people in order to reduce the health risks associated with drinking oh water.

8. In the table below, please provide information on the percentage of the population serviced with drinking-water under a WSP.

Please indicate the source of data. If data is not available, please put (-).

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

3. Equitable access to water and sanitation

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

YES NO IN PROGRESS

To reduce geographical disparities

To ensure access for vulnerable and marginalized groups

To keep water and sanitation affordable for all

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

With the assistance of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, a Country Report was developed - a table of equitable access to water and sanitation to establish criteria for equality in access to water and sanitation, to discuss actions, to adopt and evaluate progress in ensuring equitable access through a self-assessment process.

Main conclusions

1) Access to water and sanitation in Moldova is mainly defined by residence and household income. Rural and poorer households have on average twice as lower

access to water and sanitation as urban and high-income households. In Moldova, most poor households live in rural areas.

2) Income is the most significant factor of inequality in access to water and sanitation. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics, as well as data from national opinion polls, show that the most significant inequalities in access to water and sanitation relate to income inequalities (income inequalities would be smaller but still significant if the access to services of poor households were compared to the middle-income household). These are followed by inequalities based on disability and the inequalities of Roma and non-Roma.

2) While inequalities in access to water are declining, inequalities in sanitation are more persistent. Access to public water sources has steadily improved over the last decade. This is largely a factor in constant investment in rural communities. As most households live in rural areas, inequality of access for rural areas has been reduced to income inequality. Inequalities in access to public health have been more persistent, mainly due to less investment in rural areas.

3) Another feature of inequality in access to services is intra-Community inequality. This is the difference between the percentages of households that mention that there are certain services in their community (for example, the centralized water supply system and the percentage of households that have and use this service. Intra-community inequality allows us to better understand the level of inequality, because the first condition for a household to benefit from one service or another is the presence of this service in the community. The fact that a household does not benefit from a community service even if that service is present in the community indicates other factors than lack of investment, factors such as marginalization or discrimination.

4) Inequalities affecting Roma stem from both exclusion and discriminatory practices. About 47% of Roma believe that limited access to public services is due to their belonging to this ethnic group. Such a significant share of perceptions of exclusion is explained only by the existence of such practices in reality.

5) A new approach focused on reducing inequalities. The existing legislative and policy framework provides for general measures in which the authorities are obliged to discriminate when developing water and sanitation services. As the above analysis shows, with the exception of Roma households, existing inequalities persist because the responsible authorities do not recognize inequalities of access as a priority and do not treat them in a more consistent and programmatic way. Therefore, the first principle in improving the existing legal and political framework is to shift the focus from avoiding discrimination to reducing inequalities in access. This principle will require the existing legal framework to define what inequality of access means.

6) Empowering and participating the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the decision-making process. Any sustainable approach to reducing inequalities in access

to water and sanitation will entail empowering vulnerable and marginalized groups to participate and change local or regional priorities for water and sanitation.

Part seven

Information on the person submitting the report

The following report is submitted on behalf of **Republic of Moldova**

[name of the Party, Signatory or other State] in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report: **Ion Salaru**

E-mail: **ion.salaru@ansp.gov.md**

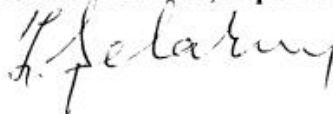
Telephone number: **+37322574677**

Name and address of national authority:

National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, 67A Gh. Asachi str., MD

2028

Signature:



Date: **15.04.2022**

Submission

1. Parties are required to submit their summary reports to the joint secretariat, using the present template and in accordance with the adopted guidelines on reporting, 210 days before the next session of the Meeting of the Parties. Submission of the reports ahead of this deadline is encouraged, as this will facilitate the preparation of analyses and syntheses to be made available to the Meeting of the Parties.
2. Parties are requested to submit, to the two addresses below, an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy by e-mail. Electronic copies should be available in word-processing software.

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