Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases

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Working Group on Water and Health
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Protocol on Water and Health
1. Progress and achievements

Training materials on water-related disease developed

- Based on technical guidance developed under the Protocol
- Two modules: water-related disease surveillance and outbreak management
- Case-studies for interactive exercises
- Participant and moderator guidances
1. Progress and achievements

Training material on risk-based surveillance of drinking water developed

- Based on technical guidance developed under the Protocol
- Background on the key drivers of drinking-water surveillance
- Main concept of risk based approaches in drinking water surveillance
- Case studies and expert interviews
- Knowledge tests

- Supported by WHO Collaborating Center at the University of Surrey, Guildford
1. Progress and achievements

Supporting the revision of the drinking-water quality standard in Azerbaijan

Hands-on technical advice to the national Working Group:

• Undertaking a baseline analysis
• Defining scope and thematic coverage of the national standard
• Defining set of core, operational and possible supplementary drinking-water quality parameters
• Establishing requirements for risk-based surveillance: monitoring priorities and frequencies
• Integrating key principles of the WHO-recommended risk-based approach (WSP);
• Setting requirements for remedial actions/procedures in case of exceedances
• In-country mission by WHO/Europe (25-27 May 2022)
1. Progress and achievements

Collation of evidence on Legionella

- Burden of legionellosis in the pan-European region, including data mining from countries in EECCA
- Survey of regulatory and surveillance frameworks on Legionella
- Supported by Hungary, Belarus and WHO Collaborating Center at the Bonn University

Expert meeting on Legionella prevention and control, virtual, 30 Nov-2 Dec 2022

- Appraise the situation in the region
- Discuss Legionella prevention and control in building systems, surveillance of legionellosis and promote exchange of good practices
- Support setting targets and discuss priorities for action in countries and under the Protocol
- Over 70 experts from 28 countries

- Hosted by Hungary and organised jointly with Belarus, Norway, the secretariat

Note: Organization of in-person capacity building trainings on water-related disease and drinking-water quality surveillance were affected by COVID-19 and shifted to the next programme of work.
2. Lessons learnt for future work

Building forward better from the pandemic and emerging topics

• Maintain effective monitoring and surveillance of water supply systems in normal times and during emergencies

• Surveillance of legionella in building water systems, including in emergencies

• Recent developments in EU Directive 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption will support scaling up implementation of a risk-based approach in drinking-water service provision

• Environmental surveillance of SARS-COV-2 in wastewater as a part of public health surveillance
3. Plans for future work in this area

Objectives

Support Parties and other States in implementing article 8 of the Protocol, specifically in:

a) improving, maintaining and sustaining surveillance and early warning systems of water-related disease, preparedness and contingency planning, and response to outbreaks and water quality incidents;

b) building national capacities for risk-based surveillance of drinking water supply and quality; and

c) improving environmental surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and other disease agents of concern in wastewater as an integral part of public health surveillance.

*Based on the draft programme of work for 2023-2025*
3. Plans for future work in this area

Surveillance and outbreak management of water-related diseases

a) Up to three subregional and/or in-country capacity-building activities
b) Evidence review on Legionella control and prevention for the pan-European region
c) Up to three national and/or subregional capacity-building events on prevention and control of Legionella

Risk-based surveillance of drinking water supply and quality

a) Up to three subregional and/or national capacity-building and networking activities (jointly with programme areas 4 and 5)
b) Support countries in setting national regulations and standards for drinking-water quality and application of risk-based approaches in surveillance (upon request)

Environmental surveillance of wastewater

a) Expert meeting on environmental surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater
b) Support countries in developing procedures or regulations for setting up environmental surveillance programmes for SARS-CoV-2 and other disease agents (upon request)

*Based on the draft programme of work for 2023-2025*
Survey result for programme Area 2

2.1 Strengthen national capacities for surveillance and outbreak management of water-related diseases

(a) Support up to three subregional...
(b) Undertake and publish an evidence...
(c) Organize up to three capacity...

2.2 Strengthen national capacities for risk-based surveillance of drinking water supply and quality

(a) Conduct up to three subregional and/or national capacity-building and networking activities to support...
(b) Support countries - upon request - in establishing national regulations and standards for drinking water quality and...

2.3 Improve capacity of environmental surveillance of wastewater

(a) Organize an expert meeting to exchange scientific developments and country best practices, challenges and...
(b) Support countries - upon request - in developing procedures and/or regulations for setting up environmental...
Thank you for your attention!