

## **Template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health**

### ***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*

The economic development of Azerbaijan in recent years has made it possible to turn the solution of environmental problems, environmental protection and water security into one of the priorities of Azerbaijan's state policy. The reforms carried out in the country have provided favourable conditions for the supply of uninterrupted and high-quality drinking water to the population and the implementation of comprehensive measures in the field of sewage services based on macroeconomic stability and dynamic economic development.

The improved healthcare workforce capacity at Azersu OJSC, as well as public health education and promotion of a healthy lifestyle, contributed to improving the quality of human life.

In order to implement the normative content of human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, the country has developed a long-term strategic plan, under which the reconstruction and restoration of water supply and sewerage facilities in cities and rural areas of the republic are being carried out, and roadmaps have been prepared to implement the 2030 Agenda.

It should be noted that an important step in the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in Azerbaijan was the setting of Targets in all 19 areas approved by Joint Decree No. 57 and No. 524/ii of 03/08/2018 of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, respectively. With the support of the UNECE in the framework of the European Union's EU Water Initiative Plus programme, the targets set under the Protocol, as well as the targets under the 2030 Agenda, set ambitious goals to ensure human well-being. The targets were replicated and sent to all the relevant ministries and organizations, and to all international organizations.

It is noteworthy that, in March 2021, the development of a national standard on Hygienic Requirements and Drinking Water Quality was started in collaboration with experts from the WHO European Office and a UK expert.

To improve the efficient use of water resources, inform and educate the public about global water problems, including in Azerbaijan about clean water and its use, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources held webinars for methodologists and associations to improve the knowledge and skills of senior managers in this area. The online social blog featured webinars on "Climate Change and Public Health" and a photo contest "Clean Air for Blue Sky", etc.

The Development Strategy "Azerbaijan – 2020. A Look into the Future" has been finalised, which promotes practical measures aimed at creating conditions and opportunities for a healthy lifestyle, expanding educational work, increasing the responsibility and interest of the population in their own health, and improving health literacy, which are central to health promotion programmes.

The newly adopted document "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" highlights the importance of ensuring an equitable distribution of income and improving the socio-economic well-being of low-income people.

It specifies that the competitive human capital and the space of modern innovations provide for a healthy lifestyle of citizens. The document notes that the country's demand for quality water must be met through the efficient use of water resources.

To this end, the employees of the National Hydrometeorological Service of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources measured a water level in 10 rivers in the liberated territories of Karabakh.

Taking into account the future population development, work was carried out in the country to explore the safety, accessibility, and sustainability of water sources. Over the decade (2010-2020), 45 water treatment facilities with a throughput capacity of 1.46 million m<sup>3</sup> per day have been built and put into operation in country's regions, with the high-priority cutting-edge technologies used in the design and construction of these facilities. The capacity of large reservoirs constructed over the last 15 years is 1,354,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

To assess the country's water resources, the Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources, as approved by the Presidential Decree of 27 July 2020, is being implemented, which includes the installation, operation and maintenance of measuring devices based on modern technologies, such as Reverse Osmosis, closed sand filters, and ultrafiltration membrane treatment that meet ISO and WHO standards.

We have made necessary modifications to fit the new context of COVID-19. Stringent and tough measures taken to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic have recently led to positive developments in the country. We have built our activities relying on the experience of the World Health Organization, our healthcare professionals and neighbouring countries, and in line with adopted protocols.

At a meeting held on 23 March 2020, a special quarantine regime was declared in the Republic of Azerbaijan to last from 24 March to 20 April 2020 in accordance with Article 25 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being. The Cabinet of Ministers subsequently issued decisions extending the special quarantine regime. Overall, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted over 60 resolutions regulating the special quarantine regime, of which 12 resolutions related to the extension of the quarantine period and 9 resolutions tightened the quarantine regime.

In 2020, Azerbaijan imposed the quarantine regime for a total of 293 days, including 110 days of a strict quarantine regime (with SMS permissions and "permission.e-gov.az portal"]. The results of the targeted and strict measures so taken became evident in a short time when there was a sharp decrease in the number of patients. Hospitals were quickly adjusted to contain the spread of the disease. Forty-eight in-patient hospitals have been allocated to deliver the timely and high-quality therapeutic and preventive treatment to fight the pandemic. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, first an 800-bed modular hospital and then a 1,300-bed modular hospital were put into operation, and a therapeutic building designed for 2,100 beds was additionally built.

Taking into account the steady increase in the number of patients, the construction of modular hospitals was organized to increase the hospital bed capacity, with a total of 13 modular hospitals used.

Pursuant to Resolution No. 231 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 30 June 2020, in order to optimize the provision of outpatient, emergency and urgent medical care to persons infected with a new strain of coronavirus [COVID-19] in Baku during a special quarantine regime. In this regard, the organization of medical assistance was controlled by the Ministry of Health. In order to ensure the efficiency of outpatient preventive measures, additional financial resources were allocated to the Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of the Ministry of Health.

### ***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.*

Targets in the country were set in all 19 areas, approved by Joint Decree No. 57 and No. 524/ii of 03/08/2018 of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, respectively. They were established with the support of the UNECE in the framework of the European Union's EU Water Initiative Plus programme.

**2. Were the 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 draft document on the definition of targets had been submitted in December 2015 to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and UNECE for receiving suggestions and comments and, after the draft had been finalised, the document was submitted to the sectorial ministries for approval, as well as presented to the public at seminars held in 2018.

The Republic of Azerbaijan ratified the Protocol on Water and Health in 2002 and, as a Party to the Protocol, took part in four previous reporting cycles. The Targets were developed with the support of the joint secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health, the National Water Policy Dialogue in Azerbaijan, with the assistance of the European Union's EU Water Initiative Plus programme and the consultations of the Compliance Committee.

[-https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/meetings-and-events/european-union-water-initiative-and-national-policy-dialogues/workshops/2018/consultation-meetingworkshop-on-the-protocol-on-water-and-health-and-equitable-access-to-water-and-sanitation-in-azerbaijan/doc.html](https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/meetings-and-events/european-union-water-initiative-and-national-policy-dialogues/workshops/2018/consultation-meetingworkshop-on-the-protocol-on-water-and-health-and-equitable-access-to-water-and-sanitation-in-azerbaijan/doc.html)

The approved draft targets are currently under implementation.

The targets and target dates were officially published in early 2021 and sent to NGOs, ministries and departments, as well as to relevant international organizations operating in the country.

**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.

The following central authorities are involved in the process of setting targets in Azerbaijan:

- Ministry of Health - leadership role
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources,
- Ministry of Emergency Situations,
- Ministry of Education
- NGOs
- SOCAR Oil Company,

as well as representatives of Azersu OJSC and the State Statistical Committee.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, a working group was set up, headed by a representative of the Ministry of Health, which included representatives of the above organizations.

**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.

In accordance with the Development Concept "Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future", which determines the priority directions of development of the country, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has developed a Ministry Action Plan for 2019-2023. This plan provides for ensuring environmental safety by reducing environmental pollution and rational use of natural resources. In the light of solving global environmental problems, the Strategic Action Plan also provides for a needs assessment, prioritization of environmental policy development, and expansion of international cooperation in the field of the environment.

Updating the economic system, Azerbaijan believes that the development of the country in the framework of modern norms and standards is the main advantage. The most important component of all agreements in cooperation between the EU and Azerbaijan is the harmonization of legislation with EU legislation in the field of the environment, especially in matters of water management, directly affecting the health of the population. In Azerbaijan, legal relations related to the use and protection of water bodies are regulated by the Water Code (1997), and the following water management laws are in place:

- Law on Sanitary-Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population, 1992;
- Law on Amelioration and Irrigation, 1996;
- Law on Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal, 1999;
- Law on Hydrometeorological Activities, 1998;
- Law on Environmental Protection, 1999;
- Law on Environmental Security, 1999;
- Law on Water Management of Municipalities, 2001;
- Law on Safety of Hydraulic Structures, 2002 and other by-laws).

More than 30 legal acts have been adopted to successfully solve the problems in the field of water relations. As part of the activities of the Eastern Partnership programme of the European Neighbourhood Policy, priorities were identified, which included areas such as harmonization of legislation and improvement of administrative management principles. To this end, the following work was carried out in the reporting period:

<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/meetings-and-events/european-union-water-initiative-and-national-policy-dialogues/workshops/2018/consultation-meetingworkshop-on-the-protocol-on-water-and-health-and-equitable-access-to-water-and-sanitation-in-azerbaijan/doc.html>

-Draft Law on Protection of Green Spaces was developed, which was adopted by the Parliament of Azerbaijan;

-Draft Law on Environmental Impact Assessment was developed;

-Draft Law on Environmental Audit was developed;

-amendments were made to the Law on Protection of Atmospheric Air, which was approved by the relevant ministries;

-national regulations and standards in the field of environmental impact and environmental load assessment were developed, which will contribute to the improvement of the management mechanism;

-regulatory and technical standards on “Municipal Wastewater Treatment in Light of the Requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive” are being implemented.

Presently, Azerbaijan has a developed environmental management structure that allows to make effective decisions and improve the rational nature management mechanism. In order to consistently solve environmental problems, a number of national programmes and development plans have been developed:

Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development;

State Programme on Socio-Economic Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023;

Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources, as approved by the Presidential Decree of 27 July 2020;

National Programme on Environmentally Sustainable Socio-Economic Development;

Hazardous waste management strategy;

A document on the “National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan” has been drafted, and the draft document is being finalised.

In setting targets, Azerbaijan took into account all the measures implemented by government programmes, as well as sectorial programmes, which included aspects to solve problems in the field of water management, water supply, wastewater disposal, healthcare and public safety in water-related emergencies.

In analysing the financial costs to determine the set of target indicators, the working group was guided by information published on relevant Internet resources regarding financing from ongoing state and industry programmes of relevant bodies.

**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?**

In the framework of the preparation of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health, it is pertinent to note that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, online seminars have recently been held with the participation of the public, representatives of NGOs, and media.

**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.**

The following central authorities are involved in the process of setting targets in Azerbaijan:

- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources,
- Ministry of Emergency Situations,
- State Statistical Committee, and representatives of Azercu OJSC, NGOs, and SOCAR Oil Company.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, the earlier established working group, led by a representative of the Ministry of Health, prepared this report in collaboration with the representatives of the above organizations.

**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.**

The main actors involved in the management of water resources in the Republic of Azerbaijan are:

- Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources consisting of:
  - National Department of Environmental Monitoring,
  - National Department of Hydrometeorology,
  - National Geological Survey Service,
- Ministry of Emergency Situations, mainly:
  - State Agency for Water Resources.
- Ministry of Health.
- Republican Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology.
- Azersu Open Joint Stock Company.
- Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Management Open Joint Stock Company.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CM of RA) approves the republican schemes for the placement and development of water supply and sewage systems, as well as the requirements for the installation of water measuring devices and coordinates the volumes of water supplied to consumers of important sectors of the economy.

The Cabinet of Ministers approves by-laws on issues of management, regulation, security and protection of water resources and also establishes regulations covering all aspects of water legislation.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) is the central executive authority that formulates and implements the state policy in the field of environmental protection and develops environmental protection measures.

The MENR implements the state water policy aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of water resources – surface and underground, as well as the prevention of their pollution.

The MENR makes an inventory of water resources and operates a network of monitoring stations for continuous hydrometric, hydrogeological and hydrochemical observations. The MENR, together with other central executive bodies and stakeholder organizations, is engaged in the development of water balances, assessment of groundwater resources and operational reserves and deals with issues related to the rational use and restoration of water resources. The Ministry develops and approves standards for maximum allowable wastewater discharges and controls them through its regional offices.

-The Ministry of Economy (ME) is in charge of:

-developing the state policy in the field of economic and social development of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including in individual sectors, and ensuring its implementation with the participation of the competent state bodies and other organizations;

-developing the structural and innovation policy in the economy of the country and its joint implementation with competent state bodies;

-developing and implementing the state policy in the field of development of entrepreneurship of the Republic of Azerbaijan and assistance to entrepreneurship;

-preparing measures with the involvement of the competent state bodies to ensure the socio-economic development of the regions of the country and ensuring their implementation;

-compiling draft state investment programmes with the involvement of the relevant state bodies and submitting them according to their jurisdiction, taking measures for their implementation;

-implementing the State Programme for the Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018 and finalising the implementation of the measures within the framework of the Development Concept “Azerbaijan - 2020: A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE” and the implementation of the new concept “Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development.”

-The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) is the main authority on all aspects related to emergency management in Azerbaijan.

The State Agency of Water Resources (SAWR of MES) is an executive body that implements improved measures for the management and regulation of water resources, continuously monitors the technical condition of reservoirs, and also monitors water bodies, surface and groundwater, hydraulic structures and water supply systems and ensures reliable security of state water facilities in the country.

-The Ministry of Health (MH) carries out state sanitary surveillance of drinking water quality.

The strategic line of state sanitary and epidemiological surveillance bodies in Azerbaijan is the systematic provision of monitoring of the drinking water quality and water-related diseases, which is recognized by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council as a right, and this is of paramount importance for people to be able to lead a healthy and decent life.

The structure of the Ministry includes republican and local units that carry out state sanitary and epidemiological surveillance and monitor water quality.

Azersu Open Joint Stock Company (Azersu OJSC) is the country’s main body organizing water supply and sewerage services and monitoring their activities. Water supply, wastewater treatment, transportation and sale of water, as well as control and regulation of their activities are included in the functions of this agency. This agency is also responsible for the design, construction, repair and maintenance of sewage treatment systems, pumping stations and operation of water pipelines. This company is wholly state-owned.

Azersu OJSC is responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of water intake facilities, pumping stations, water mains and sewers, collects payments for the delivery of drinking water and wastewater treatment.

Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Management Open Joint Stock Company (AAWM OJSC) (wholly state-owned) is the main water operator and is responsible for the provision of water to economy sectors through the assessment of water demand and the development of water use forecasts and water consumption rates. In particular, AAWM OJSC provides water

delivery through supply channels to irrigation systems and controls the development and management of irrigation systems throughout the country.

**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.*

**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.**

The current target in this area envisages an improvement in the quality of the drinking water supplied in schools and medical institutions of the republic, cities and rural areas according to the main standardized microbiological and chemical indicators by 2020. The targets also envisage the preparation of national documents on quality standards, the development of SanPiN on hygienic requirements and monitoring the quality of drinking water of both centralized and decentralized water supply. It is also planned to study the safety of water supply in rural areas. Deadlines are scheduled for 2020 and subsequent years.

**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).**

The analysis of the programmes and projects of the National Water Supply and Sewage System implemented and being developed in the republic shows that projects to improve and develop water supply systems continue to be implemented in many cities and towns. Work continued to improve the skills of personnel at Azersu OJSC where the established centre for personnel training continued to provide training. In 2000, 1,157 employees were trained in 11 courses. Azersu has created a database describing the processes used when working with water for practical training, transfer of know-how and technical assistance. Serious attention was paid to conducting educational work among the population.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

Based on the above, we can note the progress in meeting the targets in this area. In particular, in 2020, the quality of drinking water in chemical and microbiological indicators improved in schools and medical institutions of the republic.

The activities planned to develop national documents on quality standards are being carried out. In particular, in March 2021, the development of a national standard on hygienic requirements and drinking water quality was started in collaboration with experts from the WHO European Office and a UK expert. Pursuant to an order of the Minister of Health of Azerbaijan of 12 December 2021, a national working group was set up, consisting of experts from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azersu OJSC, the Standardization Institute, and the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences. The group has prepared a baseline analysis of the water supply situation in the republic. The indicators that are supposed to be included in the new standard have been selected. In accordance with the targets planned, the security of water supply in rural areas is studied systematically. In 2020, laboratory tests were carried out in 637 local water sources in 482 settlements.

In accordance with the targets for the period until 2020, it is planned to study the indicators of security of water supply in rural areas. This work in 2020-2021 was carried out by hygienists of the Republican Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology using mobile sanitary and hygienic and sanitary-bacteriological laboratories. The monitoring was carried out with the participation of representatives of the water operating company Azersu in 405 rural settlements in 26 districts of the republic. A total of 7,741 water samples from modular water treatment plants were examined for safety for public health. Bacteriological contamination indicators amounted to 4.4% and those of sanitary chemical contamination to 5.3%

In 2021, awareness raising campaigns were regularly held with various groups of the country's population to promote public health and the use of hygienic standards, taking into account national lifestyle specifics.

In May-June, August-September, November-December 2021, the employees of the National Hydrometeorological Service of the MENR measured water flow rate in 10 rivers in the liberated territories of Karabakh to assess surface water resources in rivers and compared the result with the standard flow rate.

The Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources, as approved by the Presidential Decree of 27 July 2020, provides for the installation, operation and maintenance of state-of-the-art measuring devices to assess the country's water resources. The Ministry of Environment was instructed to "integrate data into the Electronic Water Management Information System online."

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 on the Approval of the Strategic Roadmaps for the National Economy and Main Sectors of the Economy identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including the targets for the water sector. Despite the improvements made, water supply indicators have not been brought to an optimal level. The Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda includes plans to increase access to centralised drinking water in 2017-2020 to 95% in cities and to 65% in rural areas. These indicators are interrelated with the targets under the Protocol on Water and Health.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

-Adopted targets in this area will help reduce the incidence of viral hepatitis A and have been implemented.

-Cholera has not been recorded in the country for 50 years;

-No local cases of malaria have been reported in the republic since 2013;

-The work on the National Strategy for Combating Helminthic Infections that was expected to be carried out from 2016 to 2020 has been completed;

- Sanitary Rules and Regulations on Drinking Water Safety are being developed.

- Children have not been vaccinated against rotavirus infection due to the lack of planning.

-In 2020, 349 graduates successfully completed residency training and received a medical degree. In order to improve the quality of primary healthcare services, the Department of Family Medicine of the Azerbaijan State Advanced Training Institute for Doctors named after A. Aliyev organized advanced training courses for 548 doctors.

**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).**

The main priorities of the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future” are the development of social areas and human capital aimed at improving the quality of health care, social protection of the population, and ensuring gender equality and determine the state’s targeted approach to public health problems.

In the reporting period, a focus was made on bringing the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic to a manageable level. First of all, the established Operational Headquarters responded in a timely and adequate manner to the spread of the disease in the country and targeted measures were taken in accordance with an action plan. In 2020, Azerbaijan imposed the quarantine regime for a total of 293 days, including 110 days of a strict quarantine regime (with SMS permissions and “permission.e-gov.az portal”). In the reporting year, the Ministry of Health carried out a great deal of educational work. In 2020-2021, it published 63 educational materials on various topics (posters, booklets, leaflets – about 490 thousand copies) and prepared more than 40 videos and posters. Over 500 articles, videos and reports on the activities of medical institutions have been posted on the official website of the Ministry. Information communication technologies (ICT) are widely introduced into the health system. Three new electronic health registries and one electronic service have been established, which are integrated into various electronic records.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

Analysing the state of water-related diseases for the reporting period, we conclude that there is a steady downward trend in morbidity. This testifies to the increasing role of the sanitary epidemiological service in public health, improving water supply and sanitation infrastructures, and strengthening the promotion of healthy lifestyles among the population using visual propaganda tools.

-Thus, the incidence of viral hepatitis and dysentery compared with the baseline year 2012 has been reduced by 79.5% and 80%, respectively.

-The incidence of cholera and typhoid fever remains at zero.

-No local cases of malaria have been reported since 2012.

-The National Strategy for Combating Helminthic Infections has been finalised and is being implemented. Guidelines for this strategy have been prepared.

-A potential for detecting the incidence of legionellosis, cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis has been improved.

- Sanitary Rules and Regulations on Drinking Water Safety are being developed.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil global and regional commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs. A roadmap has been prepared for the implementation of SDG 3. It should be noted that the Republic of Azerbaijan participated in the First and Second Voluntary Reports on SDGs.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.

Targets in this area are defined in terms of providing the population with uninterrupted round-the-clock water supply in cities – up to 95% and in rural areas – up to 65%. Provision has been made to increase access of schools and pre-school institutions in 2020 to 85%; and improve access in cities and district centres to 95%, due to the implementation of existing projects for the construction and reconstruction of water supply facilities. The targets have been implemented.

**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).**

In order to ensure the sustainable provision of the population with water, improvement of the quality and quantity of services, work was carried out to increase these opportunities. These problems are addressed in the country in accordance with the Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources and the State Programme on Socio-Economic Development for 2020-2023.

As part of the Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources, the construction of a new main pipeline for water supply to Neftchala has been completed; since the beginning of November 2020, the city has been provided with drinking water. The capacity of the Oguz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline has been improved for cities. Alternative sources of water supply have been put into operation in Zagatala, Masalli, Jalilabad, Goygol, Goranboy, Naftalan, Agsu, Zardab, Ujar, Kurdamir, Shamakhi, Khyzy, Gusar, Balakan, and Yevlakh. Relevant comprehensive research work, feasibility studies and design of new infrastructure facilities have been carried out. Additionally, an Action Plan was developed to improve the efficiency of the modular facilities installed in regions and the work to be done was identified in a stepwise manner. In accordance with the areas of activity, regular work was carried out to eliminate the uncontrolled use of water and water management facilities, take inventory, prevent waste, and reduce losses.

After Shushi had been liberated, the Azerbaijani army took the necessary measures to solve water-related problems in the city. Initially, accidents in the drinking water supply system in the Dashalty village were eliminated and, on 12 November 2020, water supply was started to the village. A technical condition of the Kichik Kirs-Shusha main water pipeline of 325 mm in diameter was examined, and repair and restoration work began. Major accidents were identified on 12 points of the main water pipeline, consisting of 9.4 km steel pipes, that supply drinking water to Shusha city, repairs were carried out and, on 25 November 2020, water supply was provided to Shusha. Furthermore, in order to ensure the sustainability of drinking water supply to Shushi and eliminate dependence on the Kichik Kirs source, repair and restoration work was completed at the Zarisli source and the Zarisli-Shusha main pipeline, and the city was provided with water from a new source.

Access to water supply is regulated by the following legislation:

- Water Code, Environmental Safety Law;
- Law on Water Supply and Wastewater (revised);
- Law on Sanitary-Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population;
- Law on Informing the Public on Environmental Issues;
- Law on Household Waste;
- Law on Amelioration and Irrigation;
- Law on Hydrometeorological Activities.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

-Thus, as a result of the work carried out, progress has been observed in the access of the population to drinking water. In particular, if 44.9% of the population received water supply services from AZERSU OJSC in 2010, this figure amounted to 69.8% in late 2020.

In 2020, access to drinking water reached 96% in cities and 65% in rural areas.

-In the capital of the Republic, 97% of the population is provided with uninterrupted water supply.

Over the past 10 years, 1.13 million people have been provided with safe centralised drinking water;

The country continues to develop and implement special emergency measures, both for natural and man-made accidents.

-In 2020, when infrastructure projects were being implemented, the financial share of the state amounted to 61 percent, and loans from international institutions accounted for 39%.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including those related to the water sector.

In addition, the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future” was used, which provided for strengthening the social protection of the population, ensuring gender equality, etc.

Despite the improvements made, water supply indicators have not been brought to an optimal level. The Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda includes plans to increase access to drinking water in 2017-2020 to 96% in cities and to 65% in rural areas.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

The implementation of the Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources in accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 27 July 2020 contributed to improving access of the population to sanitation.

The State Programme on Socio-Economic Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023.

**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).**

The management of sanitation and preventive measures related to access of the population to sanitation systems, both for collective and individual systems, is carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation applicable in the country. These relationships are reflected in the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Water Supply and Wastewater, which has recently been updated.

The ongoing measures aimed at implementing the Targets and the Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources contributed to the improvement of the environmental situation both in the district centres and in the capital of the republic.

It should be noted that the process of coordinating the infrastructure design solutions is implemented with the participation of the local population, whose opinion influences the solution of a number of issues. Serious problems are solved by introducing innovative technologies in the treatment and neutralization of wastewater.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

**Assessment of progress:**

-During the reporting period, 16.4 km long sanitary sewers, 856 km long tunnel sewers and 145.6 km long sewer networks were built in the regions of the republic and on the Absheron Peninsula to improve the access of the population to sanitation. Sewer networks have been built in 17 cities, with this work continuing in a stepwise manner in 11 cities. Thus, work is carried out to achieve the goals.

Challenges continue to be faced:

-In respect of the implementation of innovative wastewater treatment plants in rural, mountainous, inaccessible areas and protected ecological zones with a small number of residents.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including those related to the water sector.

In addition, the implementation of the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future”, which provides for strengthening the social protection of the population, ensuring gender equality, etc., has been completed.

Despite the improvements made, sanitation indicators have not been brought to an optimal level. Roadmaps and an Investment Program covering the development of sewerage systems and wastewater treatment have been prepared.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

Targets in this area are planned:

-to reduce the loss of drinking tap water by 30% to 2025,

-to provide uninterrupted 24-hour safe drinking water supply to the population, to reach 85% until 2025.

- to implement water safety plans (WSPs) in accordance with the WHO guidelines in 20 villages by 2020.

The targets are implemented by the specified deadline.

**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).**

It should be noted that the level of coverage of the population with the services of Azersu OJSC has increased from 44.9% to 69.8% over the past 10 years. The population uses media and social networks (Facebook, azersu.az, etc.) to save water resources.

The percentage of the country’s population using the centralised water supply system has increased and amounted to 94.6% in the capital and the Absheron Peninsula and 78.2% in the country.

Local modular wastewater treatment facilities play a positive role in providing the population with safe drinking water. A total of 460 units are operating, including 245 ones manufactured in Azerbaijan.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

A progress in achieving the target for improving the efficiency of collective systems and other water supply systems has been made in terms of uninterrupted and safe water supply in the country.

In particular, 78.2% of the country’s population was provided with uninterrupted water supply in 2020.

In Baku, this figure reached 94.6% of the population. The water supply and sewerage projects continue to be implemented in the country’s regions:

At present, intersectoral mechanisms have been created and are functioning in Azerbaijan, through which targets have been formulated with reference to sanitation (partnerships between

the meteorological service, the public health sector, water supply and sanitation, environment, and statistics.

In September, an online conference was held on the topic “Environmental and Water Resources Management Rules” at the initiative of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Youth Foundation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the IDEA Public Association and contest winners were awarded.

In December 2020, a webinar on the topic “Efficient Use of Water Resources”, an online social blog “Climate Change and Public Health” and a photo contest “Clean Air for Blue Sky” were held.

The main objective of the webinars on the “Efficient Use of Water Resources” is to inform and educate the public about global water problems, including in Azerbaijan, about clean water and its use, which is one of the most important issues for human life and health, and to improve the knowledge and skills of senior managers in this area.

MENR has published an educational book titled “Nature Protection - My Big World” in Azerbaijani and Russian. The textbook covers topics of environmental protection, including the protection of water resources and rational use of water.

In order for the importance of saving water to become a habit in kids, an educational material is being prepared for inclusion in the textbook “Learning Life.”

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 on the Approval of the Strategic Roadmaps for the National Economy and Main Sectors of the Economy identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including the targets for the water and sanitation sector. Despite the improvements made, the efficiency levels of collective and other water supply systems have not been brought to an optimal level. The Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda contains plans to improve measures to ensure centralised water supply.

Despite the improvements made, water supply indicators have not been brought to an optimal level. The Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda includes plans to increase access to drinking water in 2017-2020 to 95% in cities and to 65% in rural areas, and these targets have been implemented.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

The target for collective sanitation systems takes into account issues related to the collection, transportation, cleaning, disposal or reuse of waste. During the reporting period, the main legislative act was focused on regulating the quality of wastewater discharge from wastewater evacuation systems into natural watercourses. For this purpose, the following targets were defined:

-to build new sewer networks in the regions of the republic and take measures to ensure adequate and sustainable operation of these systems. Deadline 2016-2025 - 85%;

-to complete the work on the reconstruction of sewer systems for the disposal and treatment of wastewater - 2016-2026 - 55%;

In order to enhance the efficiency of collective systems and other sanitation systems, measures are planned and are being implemented to build 11 wastewater treatment plants along the coastline of the Absheron Peninsula of the Caspian Sea for the collection, transportation and treatment of wastewater to prevent pollution of the sea.

**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).**

The management of sanitation and preventive measures related to access of the population to sanitation systems, both for collective and individual systems, is carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation applicable in the country. These relationships are reflected in the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Water Supply and Wastewater, which has recently been updated. No reference levels have been established for the collection, transportation, treatment and disposal/reuse of waste in human life or domestic wastewater. When designing facilities for wastewater treatment, quality indicators have been adopted according to European standards. In accordance with the effective National Programs, against the background of the degradation of wastewater collection systems, especially in villages, these systems are being rehabilitated and built in all regions of the country. According to the Master Plan for the water supply, sanitary and storm sewage management system of the Absheron Peninsula, it is planned to build alternative collectors to prevent emergencies during intensive precipitation.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

When creating new infrastructures, workforce capacity needs to be strengthened to introduce new technologies and systems. To this end, Azersu OJSC has established a training and methodological centre on the premises of the Hovsan Aeration Station, where professional development training is delivered in accordance with training programmes. Landfill development work has started to conduct practical tests.

Currently, sewage infrastructure projects are implemented using the State Investment and with the financial support from the Islamic Development Fund and the International Cooperation Agency of Japan.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 on the Approval of the Strategic Roadmaps for the National Economy and Main Sectors of the Economy identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including the targets for the water and sanitation sector. Despite the improvements made, the efficiency levels of collective and other sanitation systems have not been brought to an optimal level. The Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda includes plans to carry out activities to improve the efficiency of collective systems and other sanitation systems.

Despite the improvements made, sanitation indicators have not been brought to an optimal level. Roadmaps and an Investment Program covering the development of sewerage systems and wastewater treatment have been prepared.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

The main objective of this area is to create regional associations for the management of collective and other water supply and sanitation systems by 2030. To achieve these targets, the following activities are planned:

- training of Azersu OJSC's specialists in 38 specialist fields within 2019 to 2020.
- specialization of 4,500 employees of Azersu OJSC within 2019 to 2020
- professional training of 250 methodologists within 2019 to 2020, completed

**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).**

In the country, relationships in this aspect are regulated by:

- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Water Supply and Wastewater - updated in 2021
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “Water Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan” (1997)
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Provision of Municipalities with Water (2001)

- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being (1992), as well as existing regulatory acts. In order to ensure proper operation and rehabilitation of the water supply and sanitation system, these issues in all regions of the country, with the exception of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, have been dealt with by Azersu OJSC since June 2004.

In order to widely inform the population about the events held, mass media are used, in particular, television, radio broadcasting, open functioning websites of various ministries and departments.

The media are regularly informed about the country’s water resources and water saving measures taken. Links to TV broadcasts and information about the websites are posted on the Ministry’s social media accounts and on the YouTube channel.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

The Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources provides for an increase in water resources in the country and the construction of 10 reservoirs to collect water from mountain rivers. In order to measure the amount of water entering the reservoirs built on rivers, the MENR plans to install 7 automated hydrological posts in the appropriate areas.

The automation of observations of these rivers that feed the Mingachevir, Shamkir, Yenikend, Araz, Khudafarin, Maiden Tower, Sarsang, Sugovushan, Khachinchay, Kondalanchay reservoirs and reservoirs of republican significance will allow more accurate calculation of the water balance for the reservoirs.

To improve the skills of personnel at Azersu OJSC, a staff development centre is operating and specialists travel to European countries. A database has been created describing the processes used in working with water and wastewater for practical training, transfer of know-how and technical assistance. It should be noted that the materials that are in contact with drinking water are used only if the appropriate certificates are available. In order to widely inform the population about the events held, mass media are used, in particular, television and radio broadcasting and websites are opened.

In 2020, 1,157 specialists were trained in 11 thematic courses.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including those related to the water sector.

In addition, the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future” is used, which provides for strengthening the social protection of the population, ensuring gender equality, etc.

**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.**

The State Programme on Socio-Economic Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023 is being implemented in the country to achieve a sanitation management target.

In case of emergency situations in the water disposal system, the specialists of the operating water company Azersu OJSC carry out sanitary inspections.

**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).**

The wastewater management practice has been adapted to local conditions. In a number of towns, construction of water sewage facilities has been carried out and is continuing, exploratory work is underway to prepare a Master Plan for the provision of water supply and sanitation in all regions of Azerbaijan.

There is close cooperation between the sanitary service of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and Azersu OJSC on all issues related to the Protocol on Water and Health.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

During the reporting period, work on water supply and sewage systems was completed in 17 cities, 145.6 km long sewer networks were built to provide access to sanitation on the Absheron Peninsula and in the regions of the country, and sewage treatment plants were commissioned in 45 cities. In the villages of the Absheron Peninsula, the targets were supposed to be achieved by 70% in accordance with the Master Plan by 2020.

In accordance with the Master Plan, a 450 km long sewage collector has been built, resulting in the provision of centralised sewerage services to 78% of the population of the Absheron Peninsula.

Currently, sewage infrastructure projects are implemented with the financial support from the Saudi Development Fund, the Islamic Development Fund, and the International Cooperation Agency of Japan. In settlements where there is no sanitation system, the respective plans are being prepared to be implemented in the future.

Challenges:

-in the territory of the country where there are no water supply and sanitation infrastructures, an assessment of the situation should be carried out and, afterwards, a master plan for the development of structures should be prepared;

-household water supply and sanitation infrastructures need to be improved, prioritizing regions with the highest demand and the lowest expenditure. For this purpose, necessary investments should be attracted and experts should be introduced to conduct a comparative assessment. Work in this area is underway.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including in the field of sanitation management. Roadmaps and an Investment Programme covering the development of sewerage systems and wastewater treatment have been prepared and are being implemented.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

Targets in this area are aimed at providing wastewater treatment plants for all district centres and nearby rural settlements by 2020.

**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).**

To achieve these targets, project documentation has been developed and agreed, including with the local population; these projects are already being implemented in a number of towns. Also, research and exploration work has begun to prepare a Master Plan for water supply and sanitation in Azerbaijan.

The legal framework for the protection of water from the discharge of raw wastewater in the republic is represented by the Law on Water Supply and Wastewater. This law has now been revised to reflect international practice. There is also a regulatory framework for the design of sewage systems. The republic has rules on “Application of Technical Conditions for Connecting Consumers to the Use of Water Supply and Wastewater.”

In Azerbaijan, the sewage system is divided into domestic and storm water. The drains are common in towns. Wastewater discharges are not treated in all cities and in rural areas. These problems are addressed in accordance with the National State Programme on Socio-Economic Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

According to the effective Master Plan for the water supply, sanitary and storm sewage management system of the Absheron Peninsula, treated wastewater is planned to be discharged to drainage collectors, from which the water will separately flow into the Caspian Sea.

In order to improve the access of the population to safe sanitation on the Absheron Peninsula, sewage lines have been built. During the reporting period, 16.4 km long sanitary sewers, 856 km long tunnel sewers and 145.6 km long sewer networks were built in the regions of the republic and on the Absheron Peninsula to improve the access of the population to sanitation. Sewer networks have been built in 33 cities, with this work continuing in a stepwise manner in 11 cities. Thus, work is carried out to achieve the goals.

In rural areas of the north of the country, the construction of biological treatment plants in the city of Khachmaz has been completed where the wastewaters of the cities of Cuba and Gusar have been directed. This will protect the groundwater of the Samur-Divichinsky massif and protect the soil and groundwater from infiltration.

Challenges:

In rural mountainous inaccessible areas and protected ecological zones with a small number of residents, difficulties arise in the implementation of innovative wastewater treatment plants.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including for the water sewerage sector, and roadmaps were developed to improve the sewerage system.

**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**

Targets in this area include the expansion of storm sewers in Baku in 2019–2025 to 50% and the rehabilitation of 3 lakes on the Absheron Peninsula in 2019–2030.

**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).**

The Master Plan for the water supply, sanitary and storm sewage management system of the Absheron Peninsula provides for the separation of storm water from wastewater. To this end, it is envisaged to use the volumes of existing lakes on the peninsula, which will contribute to the balance of ecosystems. The abovementioned Master Plan provides for the construction of 775 km long storm sewers and 9 km long tunnel-type rain collectors, one already built, to solve water accumulation problems.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

-It should be noted that a progress has been made in achieving this target for the restoration and expansion of storm sewers in Baku.

In accordance with the 2014 Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On the State Programme on Socio-Economic Development of the City of Baku and Its Settlements”, the first stage of restoring Lake Boyukshor has been completed.

-The Strategic Plan and Concept for Solid Household Waste Management in Greater Baku are being implemented.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs.

**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.**

The target in this area is the provision of sewage treatment plants for all district centres with nearby rural settlements by 2020.

**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).**

During the reporting period, sewage treatment plants were built and put into operation in 17 district centres and 16.4 km long sanitary sewers were laid throughout the country. To achieve these targets, project documentation has been developed and agreed, and these projects are being implemented in a number of towns. A Master Plan for water supply and wastewater disposal in all regions of Azerbaijan continues to be developed.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

The construction of sewage systems in Gusar, Quba and Khachmaz district centers has been completed. In Shabran and Siyazan Districts, work on the construction of a centralized sewage network has been completed, and biological treatment plants have been put into operation in these districts. Work is planned to build a centralised sewage system and treatment

plants for wastewater generated in Salyan, Neftchala, Lankaran and Astara district centers. A wastewater treatment plant has been installed in Masalli and fully put into operation.

On the Absheron Peninsula, a centralised sewer network and wastewater treatment plants are being installed. Adverse environmental changes in the adjacent territories are expected to be eliminated as a result of the operation of this facility. Thus, after the Pirsagi wastewater treatment plants are put into operation, wastewater generated in 11 settlements of the north-eastern part of the peninsula - Sabunchi and Absheron Districts - will be subjected to biological treatment and, once treated, will be discharged into the Caspian Sea.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including those related to water and sanitation.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

Targets in this area provide for the following activities to be carried out in 2019-2020: - stabilization of sludge for use as organic fertilizer, taking into account international practice; - introduction of laboratory control methods for stabilized sludge, time period - from time to time.

**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).**

Sanitary preventive measures for the disposal and reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems and other sanitary treatment plants are not carried out due to the lack of regulatory documentation. However, this problem is a country's priority. Waste is intended to be used as a fertilizer for landscaping in areas polluted with oil products, both in the city of Baku and in 56 district centers. Regulatory documentation is currently being developed.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

Measures for the disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from the collective systems of sanitary and other installations will be carried out in the process of improving regulatory acts. This process has been started.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

The use of stabilized sludge as fertilizer by 2030 is envisaged.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

Azerbaijan does not practice the use of wastewater for irrigation in agriculture. However, legislation allows the use of the wastewater for irrigation of greenery, subject to agreement with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

**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).**

Work is underway on the improvement of regulatory legal acts for subsequent use of recycled wastewater.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

Based on international experience, long-term planning for the use of wastewater for irrigation purposes is carried out.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

Based on international experience, long-term planning for the use of wastewater for irrigation purposes by 2022 is carried out.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

-Targets in this area provide for the achievement of indicators of the quality of surface water used for drinking water supply in terms of the content of enterococci and E-coli to the level of required standards.

-A water portal for gathering information was created in 2019.

**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).**

An operational water resources information system has been created. The operational information mechanism is currently being integrated into the information system “Electronic Water Economy.”

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

-As a progress in this area, the completion of the construction of water treatment plants in the cities of Agstafa, Gazakh, Imishli, Zardab, Tovuz, etc. should be noted.

-Monitoring of the surface waters of two sources, as carried out by the Republican Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology on a monthly basis, has shown the absence of bacteriological contamination in terms of the content of enterococci and E-coli.

An operational water resources information system has been created. The operational information mechanism is currently being integrated into the information system “Electronic Water Economy.”

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs, including those related to the water sector. In addition, the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: A Look

into the Future” is being introduced, which provides for strengthening the social protection of the population, ensuring gender equality, etc.

In accordance with the roadmap, after determining financial needs, the system will be improved and the work will be carried out in accordance with the Master Plan.

**5.If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

The main target in this area is:

- reduction of unauthorised sources of wastewater in recreational areas used for bathing;
- achievement of water quality indicators for enterococci and E.coli.

**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).**

Coastal recreational waters of the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea are used for sea bathing. In the northern part of this coast where one of the main recreation areas of the country’s population is located in the Yalama-Khachmaz lowland, the quality of sea water meets the requirements of sanitary rules and regulations. This is confirmed by the results of monitoring sea water as conducted by local centers of hygiene and epidemiology and the Caspian Integrated Environmental Monitoring Department of the MENR.

In order to ease the tense epidemiological situation in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the next briefing of the Operational Headquarters under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan was held on 8 August 2020.

The State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of Azerbaijan informed that 16 mobile monitoring groups consisting of employees of the relevant departments of the State Agency have been formed to monitor beaches. At the same time, 229 beaches in Baku and Sumgayit were inspected on the basis of questionnaires together with employees of the Baku City Executive Power, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The results of the monitoring were analysed in a fully automated way. As a result of the analysis, beaches suitable for use in Baku and Sumgayit were identified, taking into account the social distance and the safety rules during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, special software, an interactive website and a mobile application have been developed.

The software serves to determine the capacity of the beach, taking into account the safety of vacationers. This information is reflected on a special website [cimerlik.az](http://cimerlik.az).

In summer, the Ministry of Health publishes information on the state of sea water on the beaches of the Caspian Sea on its website [www.heals.gov.az](http://www.heals.gov.az). Every year, before the start of the sea bathing season (May to September), the quality of the Caspian Sea coastal water is monitored.

**3.Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

Regarding the progress in this area, it should be noted that the Hovsan Aeration Station on the Absheron peninsula operates in a full mode using biological treatment plants. The same is the case in the settlements of Buzovna and Shuvalan on the Absheron Peninsula, and in the city of Sumgait.

Problems with the sources of diffuse pollution of the sea by runoffs from summer cottage villages, whose residents previously made unauthorized discharges of household sewage, have been partially solved. This issue was resolved by using 17 local modular wastewater treatment plants built on the northern coast of the Absheron Peninsula. Considering the high level of

urbanization of the Absheron Peninsula, discharges of raw sewage into the sea have been suspended. An inventory of pollutants of the Baku Bay has been taken, strategic directions for its cleaning have been determined, and pollutants and pollution sources have been studied.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to stop the degradation of the ecosystem of the Caspian Sea, measures are being taken to reduce an anthropogenic impact. In accordance with the memorandum signed by the Caspian Sea countries, illegal fishing is prohibited and measures are being taken to jointly manage fish resources.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

The main target in this area is to reduce the percentage of physicochemical and biological inadequacy of water samples in reservoirs used for aquaculture. The deadline is 2019. Activities have been planned to conduct systemic training to train personnel in the qualified management of reservoirs used for aquaculture. The deadline is 2019-2020.

**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).**

Azerbaijan has a legislative framework for regulating the quality of water for aquaculture.

The quality of water used in aquaculture is regulated by:

- the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Fisheries (of 27 June 2014), which provides for the protection of the habitat of fish resources, protection of fishery water bodies from debris contamination and shallowing, standards of permissible impacts on fisheries, examination of fishery project documents, etc. The law establishes the scope of authority of state bodies in order to protect fishery water bodies.

- The country has Standards of Permissible Harmful Impacts on Fishery Water Bodies. The standards include the determination and regulation of the degree of pollution of surface flowing waters, lakes, reservoirs and waters of the Caspian Sea.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

In accordance with the memorandum signed by 5 Caspian Sea countries, joint management measures are being taken.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to meet the SDG commitments and targets under the Protocol on Water and Health, measures are envisaged to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the Caspian Sea in order to stop degradation of the marine ecosystem. In accordance with the signed memorandum of the Caspian Sea countries, illegal fishing of the Caspian Sea's biological resources is prohibited and a joint fisheries development authority is adopted.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

## **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.**

-The target in this area is intended to solve problems with the sources of diffuse sea pollution by runoff from summer cottage villages on the Absheron Peninsula.

-In order to ensure the successive rehabilitation of the Absheron Peninsula, the reclamation of land contaminated with oil waste is planned to be continued.

**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).**

Coastal recreational waters of the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea are used for sea bathing. In the northern part of this coast where one of the main recreation areas of the country's population is located in the Yalama-Khachmaz lowland, the quality of sea water meets the requirements of sanitary rules and regulations. This is confirmed by the results of monitoring sea water as conducted by local centers of hygiene and epidemiology and the Caspian Integrated Environmental Monitoring Department of the MENR.

In order to ease the tense epidemiological situation in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the next briefing of the Operational Headquarters under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan was held on 8 August 2020, where the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of Azerbaijan informed that 16 mobile monitoring groups consisting of employees of the relevant departments of the State Agency have been formed to monitor beaches. At the same time, 229 beaches in Baku and Sumgayit were inspected on the basis of questionnaires together with employees of the Baku City Executive Power, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The results of the monitoring were analysed in a fully automated way. As a result of the analysis, beaches suitable for use in Baku and Sumgayit were identified, taking into account the social distance and the safety rules during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, special software, an interactive website and a mobile application have been developed.

The software serves to determine the capacity of the beach, taking into account the safety of vacationers. This information is reflected on a special website [cimerlik.az](http://cimerlik.az).

In summer, the Ministry of Health publishes information on the state of sea water on the beaches of the Caspian Sea on its website [www.heals.gov.az](http://www.heals.gov.az). Every year, before the start of the sea bathing season (May to September), the quality of the Caspian Sea coastal water is monitored. Analysis of the quality of sea water shows an improvement in the quality of sea water due to the fact that the companies involved in this work have used significant investments to improve the quality of discharged effluents.

**3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

Regarding the progress in this area, it should be noted that the Hovsan Aeration Station on the Absheron peninsula operates in a full mode using biological treatment plants. The same is the case in the settlements of Buzovna and Shuvalan on the Absheron Peninsula, and in the city of Sumgait.

Problems with the sources of diffuse pollution of the sea by runoffs from summer cottage villages, whose residents previously made unauthorized discharges of household sewage, have been partially solved. This issue was resolved by using 17 local modular wastewater treatment plants on the northern coast of the Absheron Peninsula. Considering the high level of urbanization of the Absheron Peninsula, discharges of raw sewage into the sea have been

suspended. An inventory of pollutants of the Baku Bay has been taken, strategic directions for its cleaning have been determined, and pollutants and pollution sources have been studied.

**4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to meet the SDG commitments and targets under the Protocol on Water and Health, measures are envisaged to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the Caspian Sea in order to stop degradation of the marine ecosystem. In accordance with the signed memorandum of the Caspian Sea countries, illegal fishing of the Caspian Sea's biological resources is prohibited and a joint fisheries development authority is adopted.

**5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

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

*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.**

The main targets in this area are:

- development of a national management strategy, as well as identification, until 2025;
- identification of particularly contaminated areas until 2030;
- organization of seminars, workshops and information campaigns for the public regarding possible negative impacts on surface and groundwater bodies, on a constant basis;
- creation of a national information system;
- improvement of regulatory legal acts;
- strengthening of human resources;
- strengthening of educational work;
- implementation of the National Strategy for Municipal Solid Waste Management for 2018-2022;
- creation of the necessary structures.

**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).**

In the context of the implementation of the state programme "Improving the Environmental Condition in the Republic of Azerbaijan", a municipal solid waste incineration plant is operating and, in parallel with this enterprise, the Balakhani plant for sorting and using secondary raw materials was commissioned. The introduction of these enterprises contributes to improving the environment, saving energy, and reducing environmental tensions on the Absheron Peninsula.

With the adoption of the Comprehensive Action Plan for Improving the Environmental Situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2006–2010, as approved by Decree No. 1697 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 28 September 2006, environmental protection measures in the country have been expanded.

In order to implement the abovementioned Action Plan, SOCAR started the restoration of oil-contaminated mining sites in 2006.

As a preliminary step to restore contaminated lands on these sites, a comprehensive environmental monitoring was carried out, a comprehensive survey of lands contaminated with oil and oil products and waste generated during the production process was carried out, pollution sources were identified, and a package of proposals for the elimination of pollution was prepared. Based on the results of the laboratory analysis of soil and water samples taken

during the monitoring, soil maps were compiled and appropriate methods for the restoration of contaminated areas were selected.

SOCAR presented the existing mining technologies to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) for them to be generalized and approved, and the Ministry found it appropriate to use mechanical and biological mining techniques.

Depending on the depth of contamination, the nature of pollutants, the physical and chemical properties of soils and the future purpose of the areas to be rehabilitated, technologies agreed with the MENR were used in the areas contaminated with SOCAR's oil and oil products. In order to control the amount of pollutants in the soil, environmental monitoring is regularly carried out on the sites. In parallel, work is being done to restore and improve the land in accordance with the natural landscape and architectural concept according to the requirements of the national legislation and the application of international best practices.

As a result of successful cooperation with international organizations in this direction, a feasibility study document has been prepared for the rehabilitation of the Absheron Peninsula areas contaminated with oil and oil products.

Currently, work is being done to restore oil-bearing and oil-contaminated mining sites of SOCAR.

A total of 2,925 hectares out of 4,040 hectares of SOCAR's lands contaminated with oil and oil products were reclaimed from 2006 to 1 January 2022.

Under the Stockholm Convention on PCBs, the State has assumed certain obligations related to the management of persistent organic pollutants. Each enterprise operating within the country shall make inventory in accordance with the methods provided for by the convention to determine the presence of PCBs at the enterprise's site. SOCAR has been making an annual inventory since 2009 in connection with the fulfilment of this commitment. This is because the company undergoes structural changes from time to time, with old equipment replaced with new one and improvements being made. In order to examine the status of implementation of the measures included in the Action Plan for 2015-2020, final data from the relevant SOCAR departments, operating companies and joint ventures were collected by the end of 2020. Compared to last year, the number of PCB capacitors and the amount of PCB oil on the balance sheet of the respective structural divisions of SOCAR, Ash and BMs did not change and amounted to 2,739 kg. Oil samples taken from transformers and oil circuit breakers at SOCAR were analysed and, consequently, information on equipment with chlorine content of 50 ppm and more in 2020 was included in the report.

Information campaigns using mass media were carried out for the public in various regions of the country. In addition, the National Strategy for Solid Waste Management approved for 2018-2022 is being implemented.

Challenges remain unchanged: It should be noted that, in extreme weather situations, rural settlements are vulnerable because flooding or waterlogging of pit latrines installed in the ground (septic tanks) may cause contamination of territories and nearby sources of drinking water with the contents of cesspools.

### **3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

-The measures for the implementation of the national strategy for household waste management and the requirements of the Stockholm Convention are being implemented.

-Workshops, seminars and information campaigns on possible adverse impacts on surface water bodies are organized and held with the help of the media.

### **4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs.

The adopted National Strategy for Solid Waste Management for 2018-2022 is being implemented.

**5.If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

The main target in this area is to prepare the National Water Strategy and implement it within the period of 2019-2020. This document is pending approval.

**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).**

Components relating to water issues are contained in national programmes and plans, and it is these programmes and plans that together form the water policy. Communication between actors involved in water issues has been improved, resulting in the effective improvement of water management.

**3.Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.**

Azerbaijan has identified five National Priorities for the next decade: Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development. The document provides that the country's demand for quality water must be met through the efficient use of water resources.

**4.Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**

In order to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 6 December 2016 identified 87 targets for 17 SDGs.

**5.If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.**

**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.**

**Part three. Common indicators<sup>1</sup>**

**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.*

Water supply covers 97% of the country's population.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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).

Republican Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**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 consumption).**

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.

Samples are taken before and after the water leaves a wastewater treatment plant, in the consumer distribution system, as well as in cumulative quarterly pumping stations, of individual social facilities.

**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<sup>2</sup>.

A national drinking water standard is currently being prepared with the participation of the WHO European Office.

## 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.

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□ (2005)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle□ (2018)	Current value□ (2021)
<i>E. coli</i>	<b>Total</b>	28.4 %	3.96 %	3.1%
	Urban	-	3.75%	11.7%
	Rural	-	6.6%	5.9%

<sup>2</sup> 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/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/dwq-guidelines-4/en/):

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value</i> □ (2005)	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle</i> □ (2018)	<i>Current value</i> □ (2021)
Additional parameter 1:	<b>Total</b>			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 2:	<b>Total</b>			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 3:	<b>Total</b>			
	Urban			
	Rural			

## 2. 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.*

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value</i> □ (2005)	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle</i> (2018)	<i>Current value</i> □ (2021)
Arsenic	<b>Total</b>	0	0	0
	Urban			
	Rural			
Fluoride	<b>Total</b>	0	0	3.03
	Urban			
	Rural			
Lead	<b>Total</b>	0	0.9	-
	Urban			
	Rural			
Nitrate	<b>Total</b>	0	0	0.01
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional	<b>Total</b>	0	0	-

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value</i> □ <i>(2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle</i> <i>(2018)</i>	<i>Current value</i> □ <i>(2021)</i>
parameter 1:	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 2:	<b>Total</b>	0	0	-
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 3:	<b>Total</b>	0	0	-
	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.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Incidence rate per 100,000 population (all exposure routes)</i>			<i>Number of outbreaks (confirmed water-borne outbreaks)</i>		
	<i>Baseline (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>	<i>Baseline (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Shigellosis	3.4	0.12	0.009	-	-	-
Enterohaemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i> infection	Not registered					
Typhoid fever	10	0	0	0	0	0
Viral hepatitis A	15.3	0	0.33	0	0	0
Legionellosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cryptosporidiosis		0	0	0	0	0
Additional disease 1:						
Additional disease 2:						

Additional disease:						
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### III. Access of 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” 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 with regard to access to drinking water.*

<i>Percentage of population with access to drinking water</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
<b>Total</b>	78.3%	97%	97
Urban	86.2%	98.9%	98.7
Rural	10%	75.8%	75.8

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>.*

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

*Data are provided on centralized water supply*

### 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 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 with regard to access to sanitation.

Percentage population with access to sanitation	Baseline value (2005)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)	Current value (2021)
<b>Total</b>	30.6%		63%
Urban	68.1	26.0%	80.6%
Rural	9.9%	26%	-

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):

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

Data are provided on centralized sanitation

## 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 water<sup>3</sup> falling under each defined class (e.g., for European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive<sup>4</sup> 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 <sup>□</sup> (2005)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)	Current value (2021)
High status	7.0	4.2	3.1
Good status	20.0	4.5	5.3
Moderate status	56.6	79.6	80.1
Poor status	7.27	6.8	5.8
Bad status	1.82	4.7	4.3
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>			
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>			

<sup>3</sup> Please specify.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

ii) *Chemical status of surface water bodies*

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
Good status			
Poor status			
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>			
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>			

iii) *Status of groundwaters*

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
Good quantitative status	5.5%	4.5%	4.3%
Good chemical status	24.5%	19.0%	19.4%
Poor quantitative status	60.0%	63.9%	64.1%
Poor chemical status	7.0%	8.2%	7.2%
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified</b>	1.0%	2.6%	2.5%
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country</b>	13/9		

**b) For other countries**

i) *Status of surface waters*

<i>Percentage of surface water falling under class<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
I			
II			
III			
IV			
V			
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>			
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>			

<sup>a</sup>Rename and modify the number of rows to reflect the national classification system.

ii) *Status of groundwaters*

<i>Percentage of groundwaters falling under class<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
I			
II			
III			
IV			
V			

<i>Percentage of groundwaters falling under class<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified</b>			
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country</b>			

<sup>a</sup>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).

### 1. 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.

<i>Water exploitation index</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2018)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
Agriculture	47.4%	65.7%	87.88%
Industry <sup>a</sup>	19.6%	23.2%	0.36%
Domestic use <sup>b</sup>	4.3%	3.3%	5.56%

<sup>a</sup>Please specify whether the figure includes both water abstraction for manufacturing industry and for energy cooling.

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

### 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.

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population designates the responsibility of state and private entities for epidemiological safety, including the prevention of outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases.

The enforcement of the law is vested in the Ministry of Health, whose structure includes the Sanitary and Epidemiological Service, which carries out the entire complex of sanitary and hygienic and anti-epidemic measures.

The activities of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Service are based on legal and regulatory documentation approved by the relevant ministries and services.

At the same time, in the event of emergencies, including those of a sanitary-epidemiological nature, the Ministry of Emergency Situations is responsible for countering threats, together with the Ministry of Health.

The process of integration into the European Union is felt in all state structures of the republic, including the Ministry of Health. One of the priorities is the introduction and use of modern technologies in the improvement of measures to prevent an emergency response in the field of sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population.

In order to ensure timely registration and information, an online alert system for detected infectious diseases using an electronic system (Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System - EIDSS) has been organized and is fully operational. EIDSS is designed for the system, titled Dangerous Causative Agents of Diseases: Detection and Response (DCADDR), as part of the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP). This system provides timely information on all identified infectious diseases at all levels - from district to national one. The programme includes 69 district and city centers of hygiene and epidemiology, centers of hygiene and epidemiology on water, air transport and railways, 5 regional anti-plague departments, the Institute of Lung Diseases, the Republican Centre of Hygiene and Epidemiology, the Republican Anti-Plague Station, and the Ministry of Health. The programme allows you to transfer the required information to various authorities in real time.

Beginning in 2016, in addition to the Centers for Hygiene and Epidemiology, medical and preventive treatment facilities also began to receive access to the EIDSS programme. Today, all infectious diseases hospitals, as well as infectious departments of multi-profile hospitals in Baku, independently enter data on each registered case, which is subsequently investigated and monitored at all levels (central and district ones).

EIDSS is a single data package that includes demographic and geographic data, laboratory tests and an epidemiological analysis of individual cases of diseases. This programme allows you to track both anthroponotic and zoonotic diseases, and there is a special laboratory module for monitoring samples taken and the results of laboratory analysis.

<http://www.e-qanun.az/framework/7916>

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

**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*

**Article 9.**

1. To improve the skills of personnel at Azersu OJSC, a staff development centre is operating and specialists travel to European countries; a database has been created describing the processes used in working with water and wastewater for practical training, transfer of know-how and technical assistance.

The main directions of the national *strategy for the development of the information society* in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2020 are to achieve sustainable economic growth and progress through the development of the oil sector and economic diversification. These goals are reflected in the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future”, as approved by Decree No. 800 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 29 December 2012. Expanding the use of ICT in health care, ensuring that medical workers and patients receive the latest medical information and data using ICT capabilities, contributing to the development of timely, affordable and effective health care for all are among the main objectives in this area. To achieve the targets in this direction, the following activities are envisaged:

- creation and development of the National Healthcare Network, which ensures that all medical personnel and medical institutions are connected to a reliable, secure, broadband network;

- development of an electronic healthcare card system and provision of electronic healthcare cards for all age groups;

- expansion of the use of medical information systems and its coordination with an electronic health system;

- creation of medical resources for general use;

- development of telehealth;

- promotion of increased ICT knowledge among healthcare workers.

Beginning in 2016, in addition to the Centers for Hygiene and Epidemiology, medical and preventive treatment facilities also began to receive access to the EIDSS programme. Today, all infectious diseases hospitals, as well as infectious departments of multi-profile hospitals in Baku, independently enter data on each registered case, which is subsequently investigated and monitored at all levels (central and district ones).

EIDSS is a single data package that includes demographic and geographic data, laboratory tests and an epidemiological analysis of individual cases of diseases. This programme allows you to track both anthroponotic and zoonotic diseases, and there is a special laboratory module for monitoring samples taken and the results of laboratory analysis.

**Article 10.**

In accordance with Article 10 “Informing the public,” creating conditions for all members of society, regardless of the territory of residence, to take advantage of the opportunities created by ICT, increasing the literacy of the population in the field of ICT through targeted training programmes, training of citizens, in particular, low-income social groups, for them to develop the knowledge and skills to apply modern technologies for their use of ICT are among the main objectives in this direction. To achieve the objectives in this direction, it is planned to implement measures in accordance with the national strategy for the development of the information society as in force in the country. The targets have been published; it should be noted that the Republic of Azerbaijan participated in all four previous reports that were presented to the public on the website at [UNECE.org.eco.gov.az](http://UNECE.org.eco.gov.az). The Targets of the Republic of Azerbaijan that have become legally binding have been adopted and circulated.

The EIDSS system provides timely information on all identified infectious diseases at all levels – from district to national one. The programme includes 69 district and city centers of Hygiene and Epidemiology, centers of Hygiene and Epidemiology on water, air transport and railways, 5 regional anti-plague departments, the Institute of Lung Diseases, the Republican Centre of Hygiene and Epidemiology, the Republican Anti-Plague Station, and the Ministry of Health. The programme allows you to transfer the required information to various authorities in real time. The EIDSS system fruitfully cooperates with the WHO Regional Office.

All ministries and agencies responsible for the implementation of the Protocol's targets under Article 6 have hot lines that people can easily access. In addition, the websites of state institutions contain information about ongoing and planned events. Public awareness is promoted by the media, television, radio, and newsletters posted on various public websites.

#### **Article 11.**

Within the framework of international cooperation between the CIS countries, a constant monthly exchange of information on infectious and parasitic diseases registered in the Republic of Azerbaijan is carried out.

There is cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Austrian UBA and the French International Office for Water to improve river basin management and differentiate the experience of reporting to stakeholders.

#### **Article 12.**

In accordance with the memorandum between the governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran on cooperation in the field of energy and water resources use, work continues in this direction.

-A memorandum on the protection and sustainable use of water resources of the Kura River is being prepared between the governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia;

-In order to harmonize water legislation, implement the Water Convention and EU directives, Azerbaijan along with the CIS countries participates in cooperation with the European Union Water Initiative for the Eastern Partnership;

#### **Article 13.**

Within the framework of the International Cooperation on the rational use and protection of water resources of the transboundary Samur River, the preservation of its ecosystem, work under the approved memorandum is ongoing.

#### **Article 14.**

International Sanitary Regulations.

According to the IHR, the country has strengthened cooperation with international coordinators in the European Region; regional and sub-regional public health preparedness and response exercises have been conducted online.

## **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 (-).

Institutional setting	Current value (2021)
Schools	100%
Basic sanitation service	98%
Basic drinking-water service	100%
Basic hygiene service	100%
Health-care facilities	98.2% 2030
Basic sanitation service	100% 2030
Basic drinking-water service	100% 2030
Basic hygiene service	100% 2030

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

YES                      NO                       IN PROGRESS                     

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

YES                      NO                       IN PROGRESS                     

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

To improve WASH in schools  
 To improve WASH in health-care facilities

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

[http://www.sehiyye.gov.az/files/pdf/emr\\_2014\\_30.pdf](http://www.sehiyye.gov.az/files/pdf/emr_2014_30.pdf)

<https://president.az/articles/9779>

[https://president.az/files/future\\_az.pdf](https://president.az/files/future_az.pdf)

## 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.

[www.stat.gov.az](http://www.stat.gov.az)

<http://azersu.az/files/2017.pdf>

[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/npd/Water\\_Strategy\\_Rafiq\\_Verdiyev.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/npd/Water_Strategy_Rafiq_Verdiyev.pdf)

The Action Plan for 2020-2022 to Ensure the Efficient Use of Water Resources as approved by the Decree of the President of Republic of Azerbaijan of 27 July 2020

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewjEvc\\_b4Pn0AhWsRPEDHRKICsAQFnoECAMQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fru.president.az%2Farticles%2F40093&usg=AOvVaw3evzQ3oWThjFa85yTzt\\_-n](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewjEvc_b4Pn0AhWsRPEDHRKICsAQFnoECAMQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fru.president.az%2Farticles%2F40093&usg=AOvVaw3evzQ3oWThjFa85yTzt_-n)

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

<http://azersu.az/files/2017.pdf>

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

<i>Percentage of population</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
<b>Total</b>	-

**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                     

10. Do national policies or programmes include actions to improve equitable access to water and sanitation (please tick all that apply):

- 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).

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[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjEvc\\_b4Pn0AhWsRPEDHRKlCsAQFnoECAMQAAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fru.president.az%2Farticles%2F40093&usg=AOvVaw3evzQ3oWThjFa85yTzt\\_-n](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjEvc_b4Pn0AhWsRPEDHRKlCsAQFnoECAMQAAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fru.president.az%2Farticles%2F40093&usg=AOvVaw3evzQ3oWThjFa85yTzt_-n)

**Part seven.**

**Information on the person submitting the report**

The following report is submitted on behalf of the **Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan** and the **Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan** in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report:	<b>L. Taghizade</b>
E-mail:	leylatagizadeh@yahoo.com
Telephone number:	-994124217902; -994503521813
Name and address of national authority:	Ministry of Health Republican Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology 22 A. Manafov, Baku
Signature:	<i>[signature]</i>
Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report:	<b>G. Gurbanova</b>
E-mail:	gunel-qurbanova-90@mail.ru
Telephone number:	+994515740167 +994123717809
Name and address of national authority:	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources K. Kazymzade, Baku
Signature:	<i>[signature]</i>
Date: 11/04/22	

### **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.

#### **Joint Secretariat to the Protocol on Water and Health**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations

1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

(E-mail: [protocol.water\\_health@unece.org](mailto:protocol.water_health@unece.org))

World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

WHO European Centre for Environment and Health

Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1

53113 Bonn

Germany ([euwatsan@who.int](mailto:euwatsan@who.int))