

Evaluation of the project “Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” (June 2019)

Final Progress report as of 30 June 2022

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date/deadline	Date of implementation/comments
1	It is recommended to consider a possibility of continuing support for promoting accession to the Protocol on Water and Health in the beneficiary countries and in Central Asia in general.	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE continues to promote accession to the Protocol on Water and Health in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as also in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, both through organization of briefings on Protocol obligations and technical activities under the programme of work. EUWI+ programme, and the National Policy Dialogues supported under its framework, provides a platform for continuous follow up. The upcoming fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Belgrade, 19-21 November 2019) will provide another opportunity to promote accession to the Protocol among all Central Asian countries.</p>	Protocol on Water and Health Secretariat	<b>Implemented as of December 2019</b>	<p>After the termination of the “Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” project, UNECE continued to promote accession to the Protocol by Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the countries were asked to intensify their efforts, particularly in view of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Belgrade, 19-21 November 2019).</p> <p>At the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, Tajikistan reported to be in the process of accession to the Protocol and highlighted that, while not being a Party, the country had already implemented several activities under the Protocol’s framework which supported national progress on water, sanitation and health. The Meeting of the Parties welcomed this statement and encouraged Tajikistan to accelerate its efforts.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan also attended the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties. UNECE held a bilateral meeting with the delegation, during which it promoted accession and expressed readiness to provide technical assistance and to support the country throughout the accession process, if needed.</p> <p>Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were also present at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties and reported to be considering accession to the Protocol.</p> <p>UNECE held bilateral meetings with the delegations of all Central Asian countries present at the meeting, during which it promoted</p>

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					accession and expressed readiness to provide technical assistance and to support the countries throughout the accession process, as needed.
2	<b>For future projects, direct involvement of senior leadership at early stages is crucial to ensure high effectiveness and achievements of planned results in time.</b>	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE had involved high-level officials in both beneficiary countries from the very beginning of the project. However, political changes in the ministries or in the governments can happen at any time and are beyond UNECE control. UNECE will continue to follow the approach of facilitating involvement of senior leadership into similar projects in the future, including through the UNECE senior leadership.</p>	Protocol on Water and Health Secretariat		<p><b>Implemented as of June 2022</b></p> <p>Contextual narrative: After the termination of the project, UNECE has been in contact with the donor country about the possibility of having a third phase of the project in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. However, due to funding limitations, a third phase is not envisaged. “Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health” project funded by the Russian Federation, also promoting accession to the Protocol on Water and Health was started by UNECE in January 2022, but subsequently put on hold.</p> <p>Despite the absence of a running direct follow-up project, UNECE has promoted accession to the Protocol on Water and Health at the highest level in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, for example in meetings between the UNECE Executive Secretary and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan ministers at the sidelines of the Dushanbe water conference in June 2022. Also in other projects, such as the International Climate Initiative (IKI) project, UNECE senior leadership involvement at Director/ Deputy Executive Secretary level has been pursued from the inception phase.</p>
3	<b>Additional awareness raising events (seminars, workshops) would be recommended to raise effectiveness of future projects in terms of shortening the time to achieve results.</b>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>In future similar projects UNECE will include awareness activities to improve visibility and effectiveness of the project results. The type of awareness activities (awareness-raising campaigns, promotion events, visual materials) will be discussed closely with the relevant stakeholders and communication experts.</p>	Protocol on Water and Health Secretariat		<p><b>Implemented as of June 2022</b></p> <p>See contextual narrative from recommendation 2</p> <p>In projects starting in 2022, UNECE has built on the experience of this project and incorporated awareness-raising events in order to enhance project effectiveness and visibility. Examples are the project funded by the Russian Federation under the Protocol on Water and Health on improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health in Central Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, the IKI project, the National Policy Dialogues successor “EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data” project in Eastern Partnership countries etc.</p>

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4	<b>For future projects, it is recommended to allocate more time both for project communication with state authorities and for coordination of all issues between government partners in combination with ensuring an appropriate level of responsibility (decision-making) of members of working groups.</b>	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE made considerable efforts and succeeded in effectively establishing a relationship with high-level decision-makers in both countries. However, in terms of nomination of experts for the working groups, the decision power to designate officials remains within the relevant authorities and is beyond UNECE control. In future similar projects UNECE will make efforts to recommend participants with a high level of responsibilities.</p>	Protocol on Water and Health Secretariat		<p><b>Implemented as of June 2022</b></p> <p>See contextual narrative from recommendation 2</p> <p>In new projects, UNECE is building on the experience of this project and allocates more time for both project communication with state authorities and for coordination of all issues between government partners, in combination with ensuring an appropriate level of responsibility of members of working groups. Examples are the National Policy Dialogue projects in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia where UNECE communicates both at expert and at highest level and advocates for increased high-level engagement in working groups etc.</p> <p>Further developments are subject to the observation that the nomination of members of working groups may remain within the decision-making power of the relevant authorities and be beyond UNECE control.</p>
5	<b>It is recommended to support further activities targeted to incorporation of project results into regular government programs to ensure full sustainability.</b>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will continue following up on the implementation of the targets set in the context of the Protocol under the project. In addition to the accountability framework provided by the National Policy Dialogues, within the Protocol programme of work for 2020-2022, UNECE will make efforts to promote the inclusion of the targets into the national policies, strategies and programmes in both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.</p>	Protocol on Water and Health Secretariat		<p><b>Implemented as of December 2019</b></p> <p>See contextual narrative from recommendation 2</p> <p>At the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan reported on relevant developments that took place since the termination of the project.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan mentioned that the targets set under the Protocol will be used for the national long-term strategy on sustainable development. Kyrgyzstan also adopted two legal acts on wastewater treatment and wastewater collection, strengthening the sustainability of project results.</p> <p>Tajikistan reported on the development of the National Water Strategy. The Strategy identifies 30 flagship measures that will be promoted by the Tajik government and, amongst these, some are closely related to the revised targets developed under the project.</p> <p>Both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan expressed interest in receiving support</p>

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					<p>for the implementation of the targets under the Protocol on Water and Health.</p> <p>UNECE is committed to follow-up on these and other relevant developments related to the incorporation of project results into regular government programs to ensure full sustainability, including within the framework of National Policy Dialogues and within the Protocol's programme of work for 2020-2022.</p>
6	<b>In order to increase the impact of future projects, cooperation with other donor programs should be further strengthened, which would enlarge the information influence and coverage.</b>	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>For future projects, UNECE will coordinate its activities with the relevant UN agencies and other donors through direct contacts and at the relevant events as it was done earlier. UNECE will work with the Regional UNDG Teams, Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to facilitate the achievement of shared results.</p>	Protocol on Water and Health Secretariat		<p><b>Implemented as of June 2022</b></p> <p>UNECE is strengthening cooperation with other donor programs and with the relevant UN entities in countries where National Policy Dialogues in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are operational. For example, UNECE contributes to Common Country Analysis and cooperation frameworks in target countries, takes part in UN reporting, in regional donor coordination meetings e.g. in Central Asia, but also in the new National Policy dialogues programme in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. New projects, such as the IKI project, are starting with an initial assessment of ongoing similar projects by other partners. Close cooperation is also happening with UN RCs and country teams.</p>
7	<b>UNECE would benefit from a more active exchange of information with other projects and programs in order to strengthen focus on gender differences and inadequate access to water and sanitation, which will support promotional of behavioural changes essential to realizing the full benefits of water and sanitation services.</b>	<p>UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>For future projects, UNECE will make additional efforts to engage with the projects working on the human rights to water and sanitation as well as the relevant civil society actors. However, the decision on the engagement of such stakeholders in projects ultimately lies with the concerned governments.</p>	Protocol on Water and Health Secretariat		<p><b>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</b></p> <p>In new projects started in 2022, UNECE is actively engaging with other projects and programs, as well as with actors from civil society, in order to strengthen focus on gender differences and inadequate access to water and sanitation.</p> <p>In this respect, the Protocol Secretariat carries out work in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation, which contributes to the implementation of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and in the context of which cooperation was established with some civil society actors and with the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.</p> <p>The issue of equitable access to water and sanitation is promoted through new project eg. "EU4Environment – Water Resources and</p>

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					<p>Environmental Data” in the Eastern Partnership countries.</p> <p>The gender perspective was integrated in the “Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health” project strategy through promoting implementation of gender-sensitive national targets related to water, sanitation, hygiene and health.</p>
8	<p><b>For future projects, special gender analysis/assessment of the project document and planning of specific activities on gender mainstreaming would be needed at the initial stage.</b></p>	<p>UNECE accepts this recommendation.</p> <p>For future projects, UNECE will pay increased to consideration of gender aspects and gender mainstreaming at the stage of the project proposal development. In doing so, UNECE will follow its Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2016-2020).</p>	<p>Protocol on Water and Health Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</b></p>	<p>In new projects such as the EU project water and data in EAP countries, UNECE is has incorporated gender considerations</p> <p>The Protocol promotes a gender-inclusive approach, particularly through its provisions on ensuring access to water and sanitation for everyone, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion. The area of work under the Protocol of equitable access to water and sanitation contributes to the implementation of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the principle of non-discrimination and equality. The project funded by the Russian Federation along with ensuring active participation of women as experts and delegates in project events, would be designed in a way that takes into account the special needs of women and girls in this area, including in relation to menstrual hygiene management but also other aspects, such as design and operation of water and sanitation facilities.</p>