Item 13
Delivering safe sanitation for all: Areas of action to improve the sanitation in the pan-European region

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Introduction

• We need to raise the profile of sanitation in the region and under the Protocol

• We are at risk not meeting SDG 6 sanitation targets

• The publication aims to trigger action and formulates recommendations that can guide interventions in countries and inform future work under the Protocol

• Two expert consultations supported the development:
  • Consultation on onsite sanitation (October 2021)
  • Consultation on sanitation (June 2022)
PART A. SITUATION OVERVIEW AND CHALLENGES FOR SANITATION AND HEALTH

The following sections provide an overview of the current state of sanitation and its potential impact on health and the environment, based on candidate data. They highlight pertinent and emerging issues that require urgent attention and action at the national and regional levels.

PART B. AREAS FOR ACTION

The following sections offer considerations for decision-makers, relevant authorities and stakeholders in planning and implementing strategies and actions to improve sanitation and health in their countries. A particular focus is also given to the achievements made in the past and the key indicators of progress on sanitation defined by the SDG 6.1 and the key indicators of progress on sanitation defined by the SDG 6.2 Framework.

The following sections also identify key trends in sanitation and health, and their implications for the implementation of the SDGs. They highlight the need for targeted policies and actions to improve the situation of sanitation and health at the local and national levels. As sanitation and health are interrelated systems, the need to address them together to meet the targets set for the SDGs is emphasized. A comprehensive national policy and regulatory framework, institutional arrangements, service delivery mechanisms, necessary skills and capacity, monitoring and evaluation, and enforcement and accountability are highlighted.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTION MESSAGES

Crucial action is needed to address the key challenges facing sanitation and health in the country. The following sections provide recommendations for action that are based on the key findings and implications of the previous sections. These recommendations are intended to guide decision-makers in their efforts to improve sanitation and health at the national and regional levels.

National and local governments should ensure that sanitation services are available and accessible to all, and that they contribute to the improvement of health and well-being. They should also take action to address the challenges faced by marginalized and vulnerable groups, and ensure that all have access to safe and adequate sanitation and health services.

Policy and implementation at the local level should be guided by the principles of decentralization, participation, and accountability. This will ensure that the needs of local communities are met and that the implementation of policies is effective.

National and local governments should take a proactive role in improving sanitation and health, and in ensuring that the benefits of this improvement are shared by all. They should also ensure that the implementation of policies is transparent and accountable, and that the benefits of this improvement are visible to all.
Closing the gap in delivering safe sanitation for all

- Region not on track to deliver universal and equitable access to safely managed sanitation for all
- Incremental improvements are needed in governance, safe management and surveillance
- We need concerted action to close the equity gap and to reach SDG 6
- Assurance of basic sanitation in institutional settings and public places
Strengthening national policies and regulatory frameworks

• Build governance mechanisms and political leadership
• Empower local governance
• Establish regulations and standards
• Promote safe wastewater reuse and regulatory framework
• Establish sanitation and wastewater management into AMR action
• Make sanitation integral part of climate change planning
• Consider demographic changes in sanitation system planning
Improving surveillance systems for evidence-informed interventions

• High number of water/sanitation related outbreaks in the region

• Integrate sanitation into public health surveillance frameworks

• Establish programmes for environmental surveillance of wastewater

• Sanitation and health data should be used for planning
Improving sustainable financing and using innovative sanitation solutions

- Develop sustainable financing plans
- Identify and develop locally appropriate sanitation solutions
- Invest in climate-resilience and adaptive management
- Establish and maintain sanitation asset management plans
- Create institutional and regulatory support models for small systems
- Develop human resource capacities
Building on the Protocol on Water and Health

- The Protocol provides a coherent framework to accelerate national and regional efforts towards safe, equitable and sustainable sanitation for all.

- Target setting framework – strengthens governance on sanitation.

- Reporting system – improves data collection on sanitation.

- Programme of work – prioritizes safe sanitation management and resilience to climate change.
Thank you for your attention!