

Item 14

Launch of the Affordability Brochure and update on the Score-Card revision



Diane Guerrier & Armin Bigham Ghazani, UNECE secretariat

Outline of the Policy Brief



- About this policy brief
- Why does affordability matter?
- What is affordability?
- What policy options are available to ensure affordability?
- Adopting strategic approaches
- Implementing water and sanitation policy measures
- Implementing social protection policy measures
- How can affordability measures be financed?
- What needs to be done now?

Exploring policy options to address affordability concerns

Water and sanitation policy measures include:

- Access to subsidies;
- Tariff measures;
- Payment facilities.



They have an effect on **expenditures in water and sanitation services.**



Social protection policy measures include:

- General social protection programmes;
- WASH-specific social protection initiatives;
- Disconnection bans.



They have an effect on the **income of households.**

Featuring good practices from 12 countries from region:



Policy options	Good practice examples
Adopting strategic approaches	Using a rapid assessment to inform policy choices in Armenia
	Applying an affordability indicator in Portugal
	Setting up a national learning process in France
	Promoting inter-institutional cooperation to improve the response to the affordability challenge in Spain
Implementing water and sanitation policy measures	Access subsidies in Estonia
	Free water allowances for poor households in Italy
	Social tariffs in Serbia
	Combining different tariff-based measures in Albania
	Flexible payment systems for special groups in Hungary
Implementing social protection policy measures	General protection programmes in Latvia
	Social protection programmes targeting water and sanitation services in Romania
	Using water and sanitation affordability thresholds to target social protection programmes in Lithuania

Some ways forward..

13th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

- Recognize that affordability of water and sanitation services is a **national policy issue** and identify **the extent and importance of affordability concerns**.
- Adopt a **strategic and tailored approach** to addressing affordability constraints.
- Enhance the **engagement of relevant stakeholders** across the WASH and social protection policy communities.
- Evaluate past and new efforts to address affordability concerns and promote **internal and cross-country learning**.

Revision process of the Equitable Access Score-card



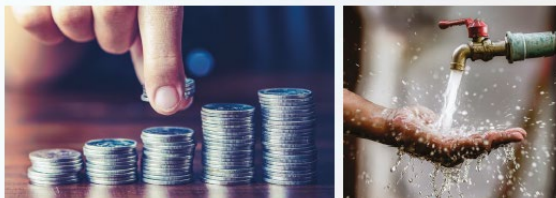
UNECE



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Making water and sanitation affordable for all:

Policy options and good practices to ensure the affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services in the pan-European region



UNITED NATIONS

<https://bit.ly/3PugDC2>



DRAFT REVISED EQUITABLE ACCESS SCORE-CARD AND GLOSSARY

As of September 2022

Summary

This document is a revised version of the Score-card and glossary sections of the Equitable Access Score-card tool¹ published by the UNECE and WHO/Europe under the Protocol on Water and Health (2013).

It is the result of revision rounds through which feedback and comments were received by countries and organizations during and after the Regional Workshop on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation² (Geneva, 13-14 June 2022).

The objectives of the revised Score-card and glossary are:

- to reflect the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic by assessing the ability to secure the provision of WASH services in emergency situations and addressing other key equity-related issues discussed during the Regional Workshop on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation;
- to ensure alignment with the recent work on affordability carried out by the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation as documented in the 2022 Protocol's publication *Making Water and Sanitation Affordable for All: Policy options and good practices to ensure the affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services in the pan-European region*.³

It is foreseen that the revised Score-card will be piloted in the upcoming self-assessment exercises in Albania and Montenegro (2022-2023), for which the lessons learned will be reflected at the next meeting of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to allow further revision of the Score-card, if needed.

Words labelled with an asterisk (*) are defined in the glossary

¹ <https://mecs.org/en/treatment-policy/publications/equitable-access-score-card-supporting-policy-processes-achieve>

² <https://mecs.org/info/Environment-and-Policy/Water-Convention/events/360842>

³ <https://mecs.org/en/treatment-policy/publications/making-water-and-sanitation-affordable-all-policy-options-and-good>

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Thank you for your attention!



Contacts:

protocol.water_health@un.org

diane.guerrier@un.org

armin.bighamghazani@un.org

