



Project “Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health”

Launching event

CONCEPT

Dates: 4 – 5 September 2024

Venue: tbc, Astana, Kazakhstan

Background:

Kazakhstan is taking further steps towards joining the Protocol on Water and Health in the near future and, upon accession, is to become the second Party to the Protocol in Central Asia after Uzbekistan. The country already had its draft water, sanitation and health targets in the context of the Protocol developed in 2016-2017 and at that time the draft targets had been endorsed by the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Integrated Water Resources Management in Kazakhstan. As Kazakhstan is at an advanced stage in the accession to the Protocol, it is well placed to benefit significantly from the capacity-building and technical assistance activities offered to the countries in Central Asia through the UNECE project “Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health” with a specific focus on setting intersectoral targets on water, sanitation, hygiene and health and reporting under the Protocol.

Objectives of the launching event:

1. Raise awareness of the project, notably by introducing the project’s objectives, activities and expected results to the national authorities and the general public
2. Raise awareness of the relevant commitments and benefits of accession to the Protocol on Water and Health
3. Build a more in-depth understanding of Kazakhstan’s needs in the area of WASH and health and facilitate further information exchange among different stakeholders
4. Provide detailed guidance to the Kazakhstani authorities on the process of target setting/reviewing of targets and reporting (main legal obligation and concurrently the key component of the project activities) given Kazakhstan's prospective accession to the Protocol in the near future
5. Discuss the way forward and follow-up steps in initiating the development of a baseline analysis on water, sanitation, hygiene and health and, subsequently, reviewing the already existing targets/setting of all targets required under the Protocol in parallel with the ongoing accession process
6. Discuss the process of preparing national summary report under the Protocol in Kazakhstan (due in April 2025) and the related support needs.

Provisional agenda items

High-level segment of the launching event

1. Opening remarks and objectives of the launching event
2. Status, priorities and needs of Kazakhstan in the area of water resources, WASH and health
3. Benefits of accession to the Protocol on Water and Health and its key provisions
4. Introduction to the project “Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health”

Technical segment of the launching event:

1. Opening and tour de table
2. An overview of technical work areas under the Protocol on Water and Health
3. Target setting and review of progress (reporting requirements) under the Protocol on Water and Health incl. a moderated discussion on follow-up steps towards baselining, and setting/review of targets in Kazakhstan (a draft roadmap for preparing a baseline analysis and targets is expected based on the discussion)
4. Interactive group exercise to discuss possible targets on water, sanitation and health in selected priority areas
5. Circle back to the expectations from the technical segment of the launching event and closing remarks

Target audience:

Government authorities responsible for water, sanitation and health in Kazakhstan as well as water and sanitation operators, national experts, civil society, private sector and academia

Format

The launching event will be held as a hybrid (in-person + Zoom) event. The hybrid format will allow the sharing of target-setting related experience from the current Parties in a cost-effective manner by allowing them to speak remotely.

The launching event will include dedicated presentations from representatives of water and health authorities in Kazakhstan with a focus on the current status of draft targets/areas relevant to the Protocol on Water and Health and the country’s current priorities and needs on water, sanitation, hygiene and health (with an opportunity to present and discuss the issues in more detail during the technical segment). Protocol related topics will centre around the setting and reviewing of targets on water, sanitation, hygiene and health and will also include an overview of reporting requirements that will become the country’s obligation under the Protocol after accession.