

“Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” funded by the Government of Finland

EVALUATION REPORT

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1. Executive Summary

Improving access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation has been a major challenge for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan where adverse effects of water-related diseases have been posing threats to human health and well-being. For both countries, the situation is especially challenging in rural areas but also in the urban ones where affordability concerns come into play. Highly depreciated and damaged infrastructure, coupled with the growing trend of water pollution from discharges of untreated wastewater into water bodies call for a comprehensive approach that would link improvements in water resources management with water supply and sanitation and the related health outcomes. Such an approach is provided by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)-World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

For a long time, UNECE has been providing support to Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic in development of institutions, legislation, capacity building and bilateral cooperation, in particular in water domain. One of the recent initiatives related to water and health was the project “Implementation of national water and health targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” that lasted from September 2015 to December 2018, including the no-cost extension period which was agreed between UNECE and Finland in July 2018. It was signed by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and UNECE on 9 October 2015 with the purpose of *enhancing capacities of the Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets set under the Protocol*. The project resulted in revised national water and health targets in Tajikistan and adopted national action plans to implement the targets set in both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Implementation of selected targets was to be supported by the legal acts and institutional arrangements in both countries. The overall project budget was approved in the amount of EUR 400,000.

The present evaluation was performed at the request and for the benefit of the UNECE Secretariat, in agreement with Finland. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the relevance of the Project for the needs of the participating countries, its effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of Project results. The evaluation was conducted in October 2018 – February 2019 by an independent consultant.

The main conclusion of the evaluation is that the Project was ***highly relevant, highly effective, and moderately efficient***. The conclusions for each evaluation criterion are the following:

Relevance: the Project was ***highly relevant*** to the national needs and priorities of beneficiary countries, as well as to the achievements and outcomes of other water and health related initiatives, undertaken at national and international level. Further activities to promote accession to the Protocol by both countries would thus be relevant to national and subregional interests.

Effectiveness: the Project was ***highly effective***. All planned results were achieved, even if additional time was requested in the framework of a no-cost extension, that was used to facilitate the official adoption of

the targets and action plan in Tajikistan and to disseminate the project results. Increased engagement of high-level government officials as well as additional stakeholder consultations could further enhance the effectiveness of future projects in terms of shortening the time to achieve results.

Efficiency: the *efficiency* of the Project within its budget allotment *is considered as moderate*. The project managers had to reallocate resources to ensure adequate coverage of all the needs of the project which required significant revision of budget upon agreement with the donor.

Sustainability: the *project has created some conditions for further sustainability*, however external donor support would be needed to ensure implementation of the targets set in both countries. Sectoral strategies developed in both countries, independently of the project, can also ensure sustainability of project results. However, there is a need for UNECE to follow up to further incorporate the project results into the state sectoral strategies and documents that are mandatory to implement by the national authorities.

Impact: the project:

- *positively impacted* the legal, institutional and technical capacity challenges present in both countries and led to successfully developed and adopted policy packages;
- contributed to *effective decision-making*;
- *created the prerequisites* for the formation of *ownership of key stakeholders*.

Project paid a lot of attention to policy making while awareness raising component was less developed. Strengthening of awareness raising strategy and involvement of stakeholders could enlarge the final impact.

Gender: the project, together with other international organizations and initiatives, partially served as a stimulant for enhancing the gender approach in water and health issues, although *gender aspect was not a major component* of this project, and there is still enough space to move forward.

Recommendations are provided for each evaluation criterion:

Relevance:

1. It is recommended to continue support for promoting the Protocol in the Central Asian countries, contributing to the countries' interest in ratifying the Protocol.

Effectiveness:

2. For future projects, direct involvement of senior leadership at early stages is crucial to ensure high effectiveness and achievements of planned results in time.
3. Additional awareness raising events (seminars, workshops) would be recommended to raise effectiveness of future projects in terms of shortening the time to achieve results.

Efficiency:

4. 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.

Sustainability:

5. It is recommended to support further activities targeted to incorporation of project results into regular government programs to ensure full sustainability.

Impact:

6. 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.

Gender:

7. 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.

8. 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.

2. Introduction

2.1. Purpose

The purpose of the evaluation as it is described in the Terms of Reference (**Appendix 1**) is to review the implementation and assess the extent to which the objective of “Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” project (hereinafter “Project”) was achieved. The evaluation assesses the *relevance* of the project for the beneficiary countries, *effectiveness* in reaching relevant outcomes, *efficiency* in the use of human and staff resources in reaching project objectives, *sustainability* of UNECE’s work, *impact* on the water and health cooperation between the beneficiary countries as well as in Central Asia in general and coordination, synergies and complementarities with other ongoing UNECE projects funded by Finland. The results of the evaluation will support improvement of the future technical cooperation projects and activities implemented by UNECE. The results of the evaluation will be important for the discussion with donors and partner organizations for any future work by UNECE in the area of water resources management and related health outcomes in the Central Asian region and beyond.

2.2. Scope

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the purpose, objectives, outcomes, activities and indicators of achievement established in the project’s logical framework (see **Appendix 2**). The evaluation considered to what extent the project contributed to enhance the capacities of Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets. The evaluation covered the full period of project’s implementation (1 September 2015 – 31 December 2018).

The evaluation also assessed gender aspects of the project design, execution and results. Recommendations on how gender aspects could be taken into account in the future UNECE projects are provided in the relevant section of the report below.

2.3. Methodology

The methodology for the evaluation comprised of the following:

1. Desk study of all relevant projects documents, including projects descriptions, reports, publications, etc. and other information provided to the evaluator, as well as additional materials (presentations, info published in the media) found by the evaluator. The list of reviewed documents is attached in **Appendix 3** to this Report.

2. Initial interviews (qualitative method) with 8 relevant internal and external stakeholders which provided a general understanding of the project. These interviews were conducted with experts who had been dealing with the project for a long time and are well acquainted with both the general context and the details. This allowed the evaluator to detail/specify the initial set of questions and conduct further interviews based on the already formed picture of the project’s activities, checking the validity of and completing this picture.

3. Interviews during repeated personal meetings, skype conversations and/or mailing questionnaires

(with quantitative approach) conducted with 18 respondents (11 external stakeholders, 2 donor representatives and 5 internal stakeholders, including the UNECE project team). The full list of interviews is provided in the **Appendix 4**. The evaluation questionnaire was based on questions listed in the TOR. For each of the basic questions, the evaluator developed additional questions which varied depending on the respondent – for example, donor country representatives and grantees (NGOs) had a separate different set of questions to answer. The **Appendix 5** provides tables with both basic and additional questions. The evaluation questionnaire was used both as a guide for the initial interview and for additional information requests.

Thus, the use of three different methods ensured a triangulation of results, which in turn increased the credibility of the evaluation and provided a more comprehensive and objective picture. At the same time, there are some evaluation limitations, which are described below in the section 2.4.

The initial list of respondents for current evaluation was provided by the UNECE Project Manager. The FinWaterWEI II conference held in Bishkek on 25-26 September 2018 provided an opportunity to extend the list of respondents from both countries. In particular, a number of additional NGOs and members of the working group were interviewed there. Ultimately, the total pool of respondents formed representative sample compiling opinions and feedback by national counterparts, donors, international experts, NGOs and other stakeholders being part to the project aims and activities.

The evaluation survey in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan took place between 25th September and 14th November 2018. Diagrams on results of surveying are provided in **Appendix 6**. Extended interviews with the UNECE Project manager and the officer responsible for the National Policy Dialogues in Geneva took place in January 2019.

2.4 Limitations.

While the evaluation was a complete and successful and the data collection and associated data sets are of quality, the evaluation, data and this report are not without their limitations and challenges. In this section the most crucial to context of the report limitations are highlighted:

- ***Interviewees.*** The ToR directly indicates that the contacts for the interviews are provided to the Evaluator by the project team. This certainly makes sense from the point of view of making easy search and initial contact with the stakeholders, especially considering the cultural characteristics of the region, where contacts with officials without initial representation may be impossible at all. However, this circumstance can increase the degree of subjectivity in the presented opinions.
- ***Qualitative Approach:*** The primary approach for this evaluation was qualitative data collection. The full capture and analysis of qualitative data is complex, and the opinions of respondents are subjective by their nature. The evaluator mitigated the subjectivity of opinions by triangulating data sources as it was described above in the section 2.3
- ***Inability to get a mass opinion of the final beneficiaries (the population).*** The goal of

the project is to support the implementation of water and health targets in the national legislation; therefore, the real benefits from the implementation of targets that beneficiaries can perceive are only expected in the future. In addition, a mass survey of direct beneficiaries for evaluation requires significantly more resources, so it may be planned in future projects.

- ***Respondent bias and recall challenges:*** Interviewees may temper their responses to questions based on their interest or expected outcomes linked to program continuation or future programming. Also, for some informants, the length of time between the initial project's events and the evaluation may cause recall issues or unclear recollection. The evaluator made a cross-checking triangulation from document review and various respondents to ensure the more accurate picture of projects performance.
- ***Time:*** The evaluation was initially based on the ToR requirement that the data collection must be started at 25 September in Bishkek and completed with interviews in Geneva by the end of October, 2018. The entire process had to be completed by Nov 30, 2018. The evaluator was only recruited and contracted on Oct 1st (after trip to Bishkek), and then some travel changes occurred, so final interviews were conducted at the end of Jan, 2019. Therefore, some deviation from the original (TOR) timeline occurred, which did not affect the quality of the assessment, and even vice versa - allowed to take into account those events that occurred beyond the project.

3. Findings

The main findings in this section of the report aim at reflecting a) to what extent the objectives/results of the project stated in the Logical Framework were achieved (full log frame is in Appendix 2), b) the evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability) and c) the results of both desk research and interviews.

Below there are findings considered in accordance with the main evaluation criteria.

3.1. Relevance

How relevant was the Project to the national needs and priorities of beneficiary countries?

On 25 September 2015, the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The 2030 Agenda covers 17 SDGs and 169 targets, reflecting the broad scope of sustainability issues. Water and sanitation is central to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda with strong linkages to many other Goals. SDG 6 is the main Goal related to water and sanitation. It aims to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all". SDG 6 has 8 targets and 11 corresponding global indicators, most of which overlap with Protocol targets. While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments agreed to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. The Protocol on Water and Health is a powerful instrument, which can be utilized by governments in setting their own national targets on water, sanitation and health, reflecting the national circumstances.

With the most of the people in both project countries residing in remote rural areas, the project provided an opportunity to improve their real-life situation through promoting government action in this field. Considering the above mentioned, the project allowed to obtain a holistic and synchronized set of measures aimed at resolving current water, sanitation and health issues, which means a high level of relevance.

Kyrgyz Republic.

A million people in Kyrgyzstan do not have access to clean drinking water (in total, there are 1,805 villages in Kyrgyzstan, of which only 396 villages have clean water)¹. Such data was published by the Ombudsman of the Republic, who constantly receives letters from citizens complaining that there is no water in some localities. The lack of water is not a new problem for the country, but it is still not fully resolved. For more than two decades, various government programs have been operating in Kyrgyzstan to organize access to clean drinking water. Assistance also is provided by international donors. Still, all efforts have yet to yield a desired fruit, as Ombudsman says.

A few years ago, the support granted by international donors made it possible to build hundreds of kilometres of water pipes in hundreds of villages across the country. Rural public associations of drinking water consumers were created to maintain these systems in working condition. Today, out of almost 700 of

¹ <http://kabar.kg/eng/news/every-sixth-kyrgyz-citizen-has-no-access-to-clean-drinking-water-ombudsmans-report/>

such organizations, only half are operational². As a result, there is a lack of supply of high-quality drinking water in the villages. People are forced to drink water from dirty reservoirs, which often leads to disease outbreaks. Baktygul Ismailova, a specialist of the public health department under the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, said in her interview to local media site: “This is just another indication that these diseases are water-related - an intestinal infection, type A viral hepatitis, typhoid fever – because our population drink water from *aryks*, not from the centralized water system”. According to the Prosecutor General’s Office, over the past few years, 26 criminal cases were initiated on the basis of the ombudsman’s claims of improper distribution of funds earmarked for opening water intake stations. As a result, the budget losses amounted to 6.5 million soms.³

Providing all regions of Kyrgyzstan with clean drinking water in the coming years, so that there is water in every household, even in the most remote villages - it is a political priority in Kyrgyzstan at highest level. To date, work on the renovation, overhaul and upgrading of water supply networks is conducted in 595 villages. In 2016, the treasury department allocated 100 million soms to provide the population with clean drinking water, and in 2017 the amount of allotment was doubled⁴.

While the country is not yet a Party to the Protocol, it has been actively participating in Protocol’s activities, also in the framework of NPD, and expressed interest in the Protocol framework while setting its targets. In accordance with the provisions of Articles 21 and 22 of the Convention, the Republic can join the Protocol even without being a party to the Water Convention. According to two interviewed high-level government stakeholders, if a country was a party to the Protocol, many decisions would be taken automatically (i.e. faster), at the moment it is difficult to get official government approval of Protocol-related matters.

Tajikistan

The World Bank conducted a recent study of water and sanitation conditions in Tajikistan in 2017.

It reported that only 57% of urban households have access to safe water, while this aspect for rural households is only 31%. The study, which was presented in Dushanbe, reported that 58% of the country’s population has access to safe water, including 80% of urban population and 47% of rural population.

The authors of the study note that over the past decade access to sanitation has improved, but some conditions in Tajikistan are still among the most underdeveloped in Central Asia. Access to flush toilets connected to the sewer system in rural areas remains low - only 1.7%, compared with 60% in urban areas. Inequalities are more pronounced in different regions, and the capital city of Dushanbe accounts for more than 80% of all the country’s sewer networks.⁵

Obviously, Tajikistan needs wide-ranging actions to ensure water quality and therefore, the efforts put in by the project team occurred in the most timely and proper manner.

Evaluation survey results also illustrated that 9 of 10 local respondents consider the project to be

² <https://24.kz/ru/news/in-the-world/item/218424-kyrgyzstan-stradaet-ot-nekhvatki-pitevoj-vody>

³ See the previous

⁴ <http://kabar.kg/news/problemy-s-chistoi-pit-evoi-vodoi-v-kyrgyzstane-kak-nameren-reshit-s-zheenbekov/>

⁵ <https://tj.sputniknews.ru/country/20170920/1023378445/plokhoye-sostoyaniye-vody-seetadzhikistan-doklad.html>

fully in line with the needs and interests of their country. As Tajikistan is the author of many initiatives relating to water issues, the Project as a whole is in the interest of the country. Accession to the Protocol by the country would contribute to further development of the legal framework of Tajikistan. During the interviews Tajik representatives expressed interest in establishing a Steering Committee for the targets and action plan implementation which would however require external donor support. Such Committee could be a platform for further promoting the Protocol.

How relevant was the design of the project, in line with the achievements and outcomes of other initiatives?

Central Asia is a region where new political and economic relations that have emerged and strengthened since the collapse of the USSR coexist with the economic legacy of the former single state. Since the issue of the quantity and quality of water resources is literally a matter of life (and in this sense is a source of potential conflicts), the international community is taking active steps to ensure a positive course of events. In the region, along with the UN, there are many programs and projects implemented by organizations such as the World Bank, the European Union, USAID and other donors. As an example, the following programs could be listed: Central Asia Energy-Water Development Program (World Bank), The European Union-Central Asia (EU-CA) Water and Environment Cooperation Platform (WECOOP), EC Regional environment programme for Central Asia (EURECA), and others.

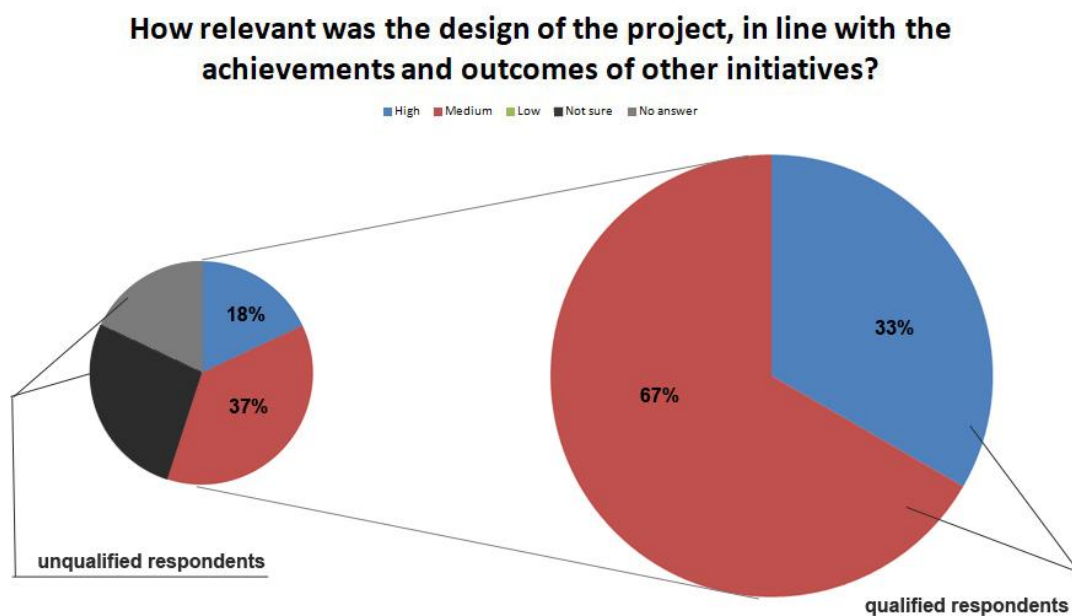
Most of the existing programs are focused on building dialogue and cooperation on transboundary water issues, sharing rivers and reservoirs, creating and developing mechanisms for engaging countries and organizations on water issues. In this sense, the Protocol project, which had the purpose of developing and implementing national targets on water, sanitation and health, takes a special place. On the one hand, this project occupied the niche in which most programs do not work. On the other hand, it is water quality issues that, creating the basis for ensuring the health of nations, complement the efforts of countries and international organizations to form an integrated approach.

As it noted in the report on Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, existing platforms, such as the National Policy Dialogues and the Biennial Collaborative Agreements between ministries of health and WHO/Europe, will continue to be used to secure governmental commitment and ownership with regard to accession to the Protocol as well as its application and implementation⁶. Thus, the project, without duplicating and not overlapping the activities of other programs, makes its own contribution to solving the water and health problems of the region, helping to create a solid foundation for ensuring the health and well-being of the population in the future.

18% of interviewed respondents stated high relevance of the project to the achievements and outcomes of other initiatives. Another 37% noted an average degree of relevance, but we note that the level of competence of these respondents in this matter is not as high as they represent the local community and

⁶ Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Fourth session
Geneva, 14–16 November 2016

may not be fully aware of international programs. In other words, if we recount the results from the total number of respondents we get 1/3, assessing relevance as high, and 2/3 as average. And if we select only those respondents who, by their status, can have full information about international programs - 100% of them give a high rating of relevance. (See double pie-chart below⁷)



To what extent was the Project design and development intervention relevant for meeting the Project’s objective?

The overall objective of the project⁸ was *to reduce water related diseases and to improve sustainability of management and use of water resources in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Specifically, the project purpose was to enhance the capacities of Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets.*

Thus, Objectively Verifiable Indicators for this objective were defined as follows:

- National Action Plan developed and adopted in Kyrgyzstan;
- National targets revised and adopted and National Action Plan developed and adopted in Tajikistan;
- Necessary legal acts and institutional arrangements supporting the implementation of water and health targets in place in both countries.

In other words, the project is expected to result in revised national water and health targets in Tajikistan and adopted national action plans to implement the targets set in both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Implementation of the targets is to be supported by the legal acts and institutional arrangements in both countries.

According to Project’s LogFrame,

Result 1 - Action Plan for Kyrgyzstan adopted to ensure coordinated implementation of national

⁷ All pie charts illustrating survey results are represented in Appendix 6.

⁸ See The Project’s LogFrame

water and health targets and coherence of national policies with Protocol principles;

Result 2 - Set of measures proposed and adopted in Kyrgyzstan to contribute to the implementation of non-infrastructural water and health targets;

Result 3 - National water and health targets updated and formally adopted and Action Plan for implementation developed in Tajikistan; and

Result 4 - Set of measures proposed and adopted to contribute to the implementation of non-infrastructural water and health targets in Tajikistan.

Objectively verifiable indicators, sources of verification and corresponding activities are defined for all the listed results.

At the stage of the desk review, the evaluator concluded that the project design (project structure, key indicators and activities, verification criteria and main results) was developed to ensure the best achievement of the planned project objectives.

The evaluation interviews completed the picture created by the official reports with additional details. According to local respondents in Tajikistan (4 out of 20), the project contributed to the alignment and advancement of some existing national objectives, which should be implemented earlier in accordance with government programs, but not promoted. Another comment (from 3 respondents) was related to the fact that the project received full commitment and support from senior decision makers, which made the project a platform for coordinating and harmonizing procedures, eliminating certain bureaucracies and delays.

To what extent implementation of the project supported the expected accomplishments of the UNECE regular programme of work under the Subprogramme 1 “Environment”?

The objective of the Subprogramme 1 “Environment” for the biennium 2018-2019 is *To improve environmental governance and performance throughout the region for safeguarding the environment and health*. The national action plans which have been developed and adopted in both countries under the project assume a set of improvements, specifically in governance, which should be achieved through enhancing cooperation process. Project objectives also are fully in line with the Subprogram's objective.

All of the expected accomplishments indicated in the Subprogramme have been incorporated into the documents in their entirety through introducing relevant sections and guidelines, namely:

Item 13 contains provisions about needs-based approach and enhancing policy-making procedures, as well as legislations. Both documents were up streamed for reviews by the highest levels of governments of both Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic, making sure they become incorporated into state compulsory policies.

Item 14 is about cross-border cooperation, which was reflected in the project logical framework and fulfilled through ensuring cross-participation in the events and conferences, this allowing for information exchange and improving the level of awareness and education.

Item 15 relates to reporting, environmental performance reviews and monitoring which is an integral part of both documents.

Item 16 focuses on sustainable development of the outcomes in the regions concerned, there is a special section on sustainability in this report (see Section 2.4 Sustainability).

Summarizing the above and taking into account that the project was developed and implemented in line with the priority key interests of both countries, as well as directly correlated with the SDGs and the UNECE regular program of work, it can be stated that the project was *highly relevant*.

3.2. Effectiveness

To what extent were the expected accomplishments (outcomes) of the project achieved?

According to the project documents, the overall project objective was *to reduce water related diseases and to improve the sustainable management and use of water resources in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan*. Specifically, the purpose of the project was *to enhance the capacities of Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets*, and indicators for this purpose were the following:

- *National Action Plan developed and adopted in Kyrgyzstan*
- *National targets revised and adopted and National Action Plan developed and adopted in Tajikistan*
- *Necessary legal acts and institutional arrangements supporting the implementation of water and health targets in place in both countries*

Both desk study and interviews demonstrate the full accomplishment of project planned results. Detailed description of the achieved project outputs is presented in **Appendix 7**.

What were the challenges/obstacles to achieving the project objectives and expected accomplishments (outcomes)?

The very first and significant challenge the Project faced (according to 7 of 20 respondents), is that both countries are not yet Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health. If countries were Parties, they would have a legal obligation to follow the Protocol requirements. Since they are not Parties, the success of project implementation depended on the will and interest of project beneficiaries to apply the provisions of the Protocol related to target setting. That is why, as the project team notes, the task of ensuring full and constant political support for the project at the beginning of its implementation was a challenge. The engagement of high-level decision makers and the continued active participation of key stakeholders contributed to the achievement of the planned results of the project within the planned time frame, even if the official adoption and inclusion of the targets in sectoral strategies and programmes required additional time.

Another challenge in both countries, as it was described by 5 interviewed persons, was to ensure good intersectoral cooperation and identify the drivers that would lead to target setting in close coordination with other responsible ministries. Particularly, in Tajikistan, the initial owner of the project was Sanitation Inspection Entity (under the Ministry of Health), but there was a change in the management and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources assumed the leading role. While the Tajik Ministry of Energy and Water

is more concerned with the quantity and not the quality of the water, experts recognize the greater political weight of the current composition of the Ministry of Energy and its greater ability to promote project initiatives. UNECE ensured getting in touch with the Deputy Minister of Health to resume intersectoral cooperation and coordination between the two responsible ministries so finally the challenges were successfully overcome. In Kyrgyzstan, the lack of intersectoral cooperation appeared because of: a) an absence of a government authority the competence of which would include the whole range of issues covered by the Protocol, and b) the level of the government officials who are members of the Steering Committee overseeing the project. Again, facilitating role of a very experienced local consultant engaged by UNECE ensured project's results achievement.

One of the experts (in Kyrgyz Republic) noted the lack of joint meetings for experts from both countries which was due to limited funding. In his opinion, project beneficiaries would benefit from meetings organized to facilitate experience exchange between them. However, coordination was provided by an international expert who was fully aware of developments in both countries. Also, the lead national expert of Kyrgyzstan attended meetings in Tajikistan, and both Kyrgyz and Tajik experts participated in regional meetings under the Protocol (such as Working Group on Water and Health and Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting).

Some of the respondents expressed the opinion that presence of a project coordinator in the country would contribute to faster achievement of the project results. However, UNECE does not have country offices, therefore, lack of permanent presence there was mitigated by regular missions of UNECE project manager and other staff members to both countries, coupled with regular email and phone communication. UNECE also benefited from working together with the FinWaterWEI national project officer who was based in Dushanbe.

Note that this circumstance – the lack of a permanent staff of the project - is perceived by three Kyrgyz respondents as a positive phenomenon contributing to ensuring sustainability in the future – after all, the project beneficiaries who are the ones to continue to promote project initiatives should have full ownership of the project, once again confirming that the project design allowed for promoting and establishing sustainable ownership.

The last but not least challenge resulted from the necessity to coordinate the efforts of the many stakeholders representing different institutions involved in both drafting and implementation stages, namely coordination of their schedules and ensuring proper information flows. Despite the difficulties, the project was successful owing to the high level of commitment of the main stakeholders and their direct involvement and genuine commitment to improve the current situation with water, sanitation and health.

Has the project improved capacity of key stakeholders?

UNECE ensured that the working groups established in both countries were comprised of representatives from relevant ministries who worked together on developing targets; the process was coordinated by an international expert from Norway, the targets were set in alignment with the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development. UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe, as organizations representing the joint secretariat, contributed their knowledge and expertise throughout the project development and provided consolidated feedback on the targets and action plans developed by the countries.

Capacity building outcomes:

-
- The ability to build a dialogue both within the country and with other countries and the international community is a significant contribution of the project to the development of local stakeholders.
- “With the help of this project we will grow a new generation of people for our country, which will have a completely different attitude to the world, to life, to its main values,” said one of the Tajik experts. At the same time, 3 local experts expressed opinion that beyond increasing capacity of government authorities it would be important to disseminate the project outcomes more broadly, including local authorities and civil society.
- It is to be noted that all the respondents surveyed unanimously stressed the important role played by the main international consultant.

To what extent were the planned activities sufficient to achieve the expected accomplishments (outcomes) and project objective?

The desk study of project documentation leads to the conclusion that the project plan reflects the sequence of actions to achieve the objectives correctly and fairly. Perhaps the planned deadlines were somewhat more optimistic than they should have been (and probably in future more time should be allowed), however we should keep in mind that it is not always possible to foresee 100% of the causes of delays.

All people surveyed in Tajikistan agreed the project activities were planned sufficiently and allowed to achieve the expected outcomes even in an unpredictable situation of responsibilities transfer from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Energy and Water.

Most of Kyrgyz representatives (8 of 10) also said that the Project was well planned and arranged, the problems that arose during the implementation of the project were due to local circumstances and could not be foreseen or mitigated in advance.

To what extent the implementation of the project contributed to the overall objectives of the Protocol on Water and Health?

The main aim of the Protocol is to protect human health and well being by better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems. It is the first international, legally-binding instrument on water and health. Parties to the Protocol Parties are required to establish national targets to achieve or maintain a high level of protection from water-related diseases. And since the goal of this project was the development and implementation of national targets - it is self-evident about the project’s full compliance with the overall objectives of the Protocol.

To what extent the implementation of the project was effectively supported by and contributed to the National Policy Dialogue processes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan? What were the synergies that the project brought along?

The European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. The overriding aim of the EUWI is to coordinate EU development assistance in the field of water. Over a decade ago, the EU identified UNECE and OECD as strategic partners for the implementation of the EUWI in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The implementation of EUWI in the region relies on National Policy Dialogues (NPDs), jointly facilitated by UNECE and OECD. NPDs are platforms where key national stakeholders meet regularly to discuss and advance policy reforms. The UNECE is the strategic partner for work on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Supply and Sanitation, including promotion of Protocol on Water and Health.

The NPD framework used in the project implementation facilitated open dialogue and involvement of key decision makers in actual and practical discussions, increasing awareness of the existing state of affairs among the stakeholders and ensuring aligned work and coordination and eliminating overlapping. The real synergy came in through the Steering Committee that aggregated and consolidated the information and oversaw project implementation.

NPD played key role in achieving project results in both countries, especially in terms of providing political support and supporting intersectoral cooperation when setting targets under the Protocol. The working group that developed targets was functioning under auspices of the NPD. Therefore, it reported on the outcomes of the work at every meeting of the NPD Steering Committee thus ensuring accountability.

NPD Steering Committee also serves as a convening platform gathering all relevant ministries and agencies as well as wider donor community, which is expected to lead to attracting investments needed to implement the targets set, in particular the ones related to infrastructure development.

Particularly in Tajikistan, NPD played crucial role in promoting the role of the Protocol and the importance of targets on water and health for the protection of water resources, which was of particular relevance to the Ministry of Energy and Water. There were two points crucial for the Ministry: a) The Protocol is not only about targets but also about the in-depth analysis of the situation with regard to water and health with the aim of identifying main challenges and policy gaps; and b) The national targets should become an integral part of the country major policies on water and health. Most importantly, one of chapters of the forthcoming Water Strategy of Tajikistan will reflect national targets on water and health.

NPD in both countries also provided the link between the Norwegian project on setting targets (implemented directly by Norway and not UNECE) and the present Finnish project. Without NPD such link and continuity would be missing.

Also, as a way of dealing with risks such as changes in the high-level management (e.g. in the Sanitation Inspection Entity in Tajikistan), NPD helped getting in touch with the Deputy Minister of Health

who personally took the leading role in further promoting the targets.

Beyond the project finalization, NPD, that is also involved in discussions around the Tajik Programme of the Water Sector Reform until 2025 will continue promoting integration of the national targets on water and health in the Tajik National Water Strategy and will follow up on this within NPD meetings.

UNECE NPD project manager noted that representatives of many government agencies were included into the NPD Steering Committees in both countries. In particular, in Tajikistan, in addition to the leading Ministry of Energy and Water and the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Emergencies were members of the NPD Steering Committee.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that *the project was highly effective* and the planned indicators were achieved.

3.3. Efficiency

According to the draft final report, it was expected that the planned objectives, including the facilitation of the official adoption of targets in both countries, are achieved within the planned budget and timeframe. Time schedule of project implementation (ANNEX II to the Project docs) provided to the evaluator covered the period of 3rd quarter 2015 – 4th quarter 2017 only. Meanwhile, the project continued until December 2018, inclusive. With regard to the project duration, a no-cost project extension until 31 December 2018 was agreed by Finland and UNECE on 4 July 2018.

Regarding the delivery of the project outputs, it can be concluded that the Project had reached its main objectives – revised targets and action Plan were adopted in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, respectively. Time schedule of project implementation, showing a comparison of planned and actual terms, is provided in *Appendix 8*. It shows that all project activities were started and completed within the agreed project duration but later than the original plan predicted.

There was a certain delay in the project implementation due to lack of internal coordination and bureaucracy within government agencies involved into the project in both countries. Probably, such problem could be mitigated by allocating a sufficient time reserve and assigning clear roles and responsibilities at the stage of planning of the project. Also, attempts could be made in future to pre-agree on a proper level of responsibility for working group members, representing government's agencies, so that they could take decisions on their own without necessarily requiring approval by high level officials for any matter.

The total budget of the Project for the whole implementation period amounted to EUR 400,000.

In January 2017 a re-allocation of funds between the different budget lines was agreed by UNECE and Finland. The technical shift of funds between "Sub-contracting" and "Organizations of missions and trainings" budget lines was due to administrative reasons as the funds were still spent for hiring local experts through grants to local organizations.

Annex I to the draft final project report submitted to Finland by UNECE contains both initial and

modified project budgets. For the purpose of the analysis, the report on expenditures between September 2015 and June 2018 was provided to the evaluator.

As a percentage of the total amount, the main budget items are as follows:

Budget item	Initial budget	Modified budget
TA personnel	32,8%	27,7%
Sub-contracting (experts)	34,1%	23,0%
Travel and subsistence	11,6%	14,1%
Organization of missions and trainings	10%	23,6%
UN Programme and Support costs	11,5%	11,5%

The budget deviations that were agreed with the donor prove a fairly flexible approach of the project team to changing circumstances.

As can be seen from the draft final report, for the first period of the project (Sep15-Aug16), € 221801 was spent, which accounts for 55% of the total budget. For the period Sep16-Aug17 € 110049 was spent, which is 27.5% of the total budget. For the period Sep17-Dec17 € 11410 was spent, which is only 3.4% of the total budget. And for the last period Jan18-Jun18 € 45,927 was spent, which is 44.5%. The remaining amount was expected to be spent in the period July-December 2018.

All above mentioned allows concluding that the project was *moderately efficient*.

3.4 Sustainability

To what extent will the results of the project continue after completion of the projects in the beneficiary countries?

The objective of the project was achieved. Both countries developed and officially approved national targets as well as national action plans for implementing them. From this point of view, one can speak about the sufficient stability of the project results. On the other hand, both countries are not yet Parties to the Protocol, and this circumstance may be an obstacle for implementing national targets without follow up and support by the Protocol secretariat. Therefore, in the opinion of the evaluator, it is more correct to say that the *project has created some conditions for further sustainability*, however, at present and in the near future, external donor support is crucially needed.

According to the interviews and the survey outcomes, the Project results may continue without further intervention, but only to a certain extent (63% of the surveyed participants in total, where 36% believe the results will be sustainable in high extent, 27% say about medium sustainability). Some (4 of 20) interviewed respondents considered that both countries had enough qualified staff to continue implementing

project objectives, provided that there was political will and funding. However, other respondents were not so optimistic and considered further support necessary for achieving all targets set in the context of the Protocol.

Some assumptions for sustainability include:

- In Tajikistan, national targets are expected to be taken into account in the process of Water Sector Reform Programme 2016-2025. The aim of the programme is to create a framework by 2020 for the transition to water resource management according to the basin principle and to clarify the competencies of different national institutions. The International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” for 2018-2028, which is promoted by Tajikistan, provides maximum opportunities for realizing the goals of the project and further developing the water sector. UNECE had been using the opportunities offered by the International Decade to promote accession to the Protocol by Tajikistan and official adoption of targets at highest level (for example by organizing bilaterals at high level at the occasion of the International High-Level Conference held in Dushanbe on 20-22 June 2018). Promoting national targets is also possible through the TajWSS Network which is a national multistakeholder platform comprising government agencies, international institutions, donors, academia, private sector and non-governmental organizations active in the area of water and sanitation.
- National Indicators System in Kyrgyz Republic. This set of indicators is being developed in the course of adapting the SDG indicators at the national level. Since the SDGs are reflected in the Sustainable Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040, their achievement automatically becomes mandatory for all government agencies at all levels. The national targets for water and health were recommended to be integrated as part of the system of national indicators which would make their achievement mandatory, thus ensuring sustainability of the project results in the future.
- National Policy Dialogues will continue providing platform for monitoring and review of project results in both countries, including implementation of the respective action plans. In particular, in Tajikistan it was suggested to organize specific thematic sessions on different issues related to the Protocol and the targets set in its context.

To what degree the project influenced the policies of beneficiary countries to further pursue cooperation to improve the quality of water shared water resources?

The project along with other international programs supported further cooperation both between various stakeholders within countries and between countries by promoting exchange of experience between the technical experts involved in setting of targets and ensuring transfer of international knowledge and experience by the lead international consultant.

To what degree the project outcomes were upscaled, e.g. national water and health targets used in government authorities’ discussions with donor community?

National experts in both countries (54% of interviewed) agreed that the results achieved under the project were important for further development of the countries by supporting the improvement of water and sanitation services. A high-ranking official from a ministry in Tajikistan, for example, said project outcomes can be considered as a basis for planning further actions, including cooperation with the donor community, attracting internal and external investments. According to him, national targets and national action plans clearly demonstrate the ability and willingness of the government to continue moving towards its intended goal - to provide the country and the region with quality water. And this, in turn, should be an attractive factor for the international donor community.

However, two other representatives of government agencies in Tajikistan and one in Kyrgyzstan said that in the future it is necessary to pay more attention to the development of a local capacity, rather than relying on outside help. In their opinion, countries become dependent on foreign aid, and in the event of termination (or decline) of such assistance they will not be able to secure their own interests - which means that it is necessary to develop their personnel expertise, accumulate necessary resources and learn from existing international experience. From this perspective, the objective of the project – to strengthen the capacity of the governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to set and implement targets under the Protocol – supports the ability of national stakeholders to address the water and sanitation related issues from policy and institutional perspective with limited external involvement.

3.4. Impact

To what extent has the project impacted the legal, institutional and technical capacity challenges at the national and regional levels to effectively address regional water quality problems?

The project contributed to the development of a cross-sectoral approach by promoting the concept of integration and close linkages between the water and health sectors which was not necessarily in place in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as at subregional level. Such approach is intrinsic in the Protocol on Water and Health. In both countries, representatives of government agencies noted that the concept of the integration of water and health issues proposed by the Protocol led to modification of government's approach to this issue. It was for the first time at national level that such a comprehensive approach was adopted to the issue of water and health – from planning (setting targets) and developing action plan (creating conditions for implementation) and reporting (monitoring and follow up of results).

68% of surveyed representatives of both countries viewed the project as the main catalyst for the improvement of the legislative systems of the beneficiary countries. According to them, it was not just about the direct outputs of the project (such as the national targets or national action plans). A much more important impact in Kyrgyzstan, in terms of launching an independent national process, is the intention to incorporate the targets into the Kyrgyz Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2040 and the fact that UNECE is committed to follow up on this matter, even if this is beyond project scope. In Tajikistan, the Protocol targets were taken into account when developing the National Water Strategy for the period until 2030 which is the main strategic document providing guidance for long-term integrated water resources management in the country. Another example is the revision of the sanitary rules and norms (SanPiN)

undertaken by the Ministry of Health. These regulations are expected to be adopted by the Government in 2019. This is a good illustrative display of the project impact because the purpose of this revision is to harmonize sanitary rules and norms with a set of national targets which were developed by project.

What policy packages were or were not successful and why (criteria, success factors)?

The policy packages (National Targets and Action Plans) initiated by the Project in both countries were fully successful both in terms of a) involving all the necessary and interested parties; b) the quality of the drafted documents - this was indicated by 100% both local and international experts and c) official adoption of the documents by the respective NPD Steering Committees and possible further integration in the national strategic policies and strategies.

The success factor in this case was correspondence of the Project objectives with the strategic policy goals and development objectives of the beneficiary countries (the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 establishes health care as one of the main development priorities of the country and provides for "improving water supply and sanitation"⁹. National Development Strategy of The Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040 contains the section "Clean Water" as an integral part of development.¹⁰).

To what extent the project impacted effective decision-making and information exchange between the countries on water quality and related health outcomes?

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were once the republics of the former single state - the Soviet Union. It was the time of a commonly shared economic and political system, where all the processes were based on the same model, and the decision-making process was top-down – coming from the capital. Actually, neither Kyrgyzstan nor Tajikistan, nor any other union republic, had much room for independent decision-making. Information exchange in a single Soviet state thus did not present any problem.

Having become independent states, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, on the one hand, received complete freedom in building their economic, political, legislative systems, and on the other hand, faced the need to establish interaction and cooperation, being not just neighbors in the region, but users of one of the most valuable shared resources - water.

The collapse of the USSR triggered the collapse of the unified energy system in the region. Downstream countries (for example, Uzbekistan) continued to use water coming from upstream for free, but began selling gas and electricity to their neighbors at market prices, not allowing to use it on credit. Thus, the energy priorities of the upstream countries contradict the agricultural interests of the downstream countries, since one needs electricity first, while the water for the development of irrigated agriculture comes second. There have been countless attempts to stabilize the situation.

For example, back in 1992, Tajikistan, along with other Central Asian states, signed an Agreement on cooperation in the joint management of the use and protection of water resources of interstate sources,

⁹ <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/taj170774.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.stat.kg/en/nsur/>

and in 1993 co-founded the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. In addition, in order to provide the population of the Central Asian countries with water, Tajikistan proposed to create an International Consortium for the use of fresh water from the high-mountainous Lake Sarez.

The Republic of Tajikistan also initiated and ensured the adoption of the program of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life 2005-2015” and the “International Year of Water Cooperation - 2013”.

Regional cooperation in the use of resources of the Amudarya and Syrdarya river basins is carried out within the framework of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC), which is the body of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). The members of the ICWC are the heads of water management bodies of all Central Asian states.

The International Conference on the Results of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" - 2005-2015" was held in Dushanbe in 2015 attended by 1,500 politicians and specialists from 100 countries. At the end of the conference, the Dushanbe Water Declaration was adopted. In 2018, during the the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, the President of Tajikistan met with the President of Kyrgyzstan. The Heads of State called for the revitalization of the bilateral Intergovernmental Commission for the efficient use of water resources. In October 2018, a bilateral meeting attended by the Prime Minister of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan was held in Dushanbe¹¹.

A fruitful exchange of views and information took place in regards with strengthening intergovernmental cooperation between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in the field of using water resources¹².

Thus, the Project’s efforts to form a new culture of attitude to water resources in both countries, as well as to strengthen cooperation among the countries of the region in water management issues, are embodied in joint decisions and documents adopted by top leaders of the countries.

The project also showed the need for the accumulation, exchange and sharing of data on water quality and related health indicators of the population.

To what extent the project resulted in increased ownership of key stakeholders allowing them to lead and drive the implementation of the targets beyond the project finalization?

Capitalizing on the support provided within the project, the national authorities were able to set the targets and develop the action plans in both beneficiary countries. This contributed to establishment of working relations between experts representing different organizations, developing the sense of ownership and creating the prerequisites for independent continuation of activities after the completion of the project. National targets are expected to be integrated in the national sectoral strategies and programmes so the national authorities should finally assume their responsibility for implementing the national targets.

Involving local experts and NGO’s participation in project’s activities also supported the ownership development.

Summarizing the above, we can state that the project:

- *positively impacted* the legal, institutional and technical capacity challenges at the national level by

¹¹ <http://kabar.kg/eng/news/prime-ministers-of-kyrgyzstan-and-tajikistan-held-bilateral-meeting-in-dushanbe/>

¹² https://news.rambler.ru/other/41020119/?utm_content=rnews&utm_medium=read_more&utm_source=copypink

- supporting development and adoption of successful policy packages;
- contributed to *effective decision-making*;
- created the prerequisites for the formation of *ownership of key stakeholders*;
- *information exchange between the beneficiary countries* could be further strengthened.

4. Cross Cutting Issues - Gender

The draft final project report provided the following information:

“Key cross-cutting objective of the project was to support stronger recognition of women as crucial stakeholders in water and health matters and demonstrating the importance of women’s skills, knowledge and labour contributions to water management. The Kyrgyz working group on the project implementation was composed mainly by active and dedicated women (10 out of 12 members), including representatives of two NGOs, Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation and BIOM, both led and represented by women. Among the 33 participants represented local organizations at the Seventeenth Steering Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic on January 30, 2018, 14 were women. There were 13 participants of the Working Group meeting on Revision (inventory) of target indicators in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health in Kyrgyzstan on March 14, 2017, 8 of which were women.

In Tajikistan, only one of the 10 experts officially nominated for the working group on the project implementation was a woman. However, female participants from Tajikistan have been involved in the NPD Steering Committee process, including through delivering presentations at the meetings and actively contributing to discussions on revised targets and other project activities.”

Consequently, the uneven gender balance of project participants in the two countries is obvious, with Kyrgyzstan being fully compliance with gender mainstreaming objectives and Tajikistan lagging behind. According to the UN Women Tajikistan Office, the Government of Tajikistan, together with the international community, have called for urgent action to ensure women’s and girls’ right to access clean water and sanitation and to participate in processes related to their effective management. Unfortunately, this intention did not materialize in the case of Tajikistan. A possible lesson to be learned from this is the need for educational project events to be organized in Tajikistan in particular in order to involve more women and attract more attention to these aspects of Protocol’s significance.

Contrary to Kyrgyzstan, according to two international and one local expert in Tajikistan, the gender aspect in this project was taken into account to a lesser extent than in other international projects.

It can be concluded that *gender aspect was not developed well enough* in this project, and additional efforts could have been made already at the stage of the project development to ensure adequate gender mainstreaming and adherence to the principles of gender equality in the context of activities implemented in Tajikistan in particular.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

The main conclusion of the evaluation is that the Project was *highly relevant, highly effective, and moderately efficient*.

The conclusions for each evaluation criterion are the following:

Relevance: the Project was *highly relevant* to the national needs and priorities of beneficiary countries, as well as to the achievements and outcomes of other initiatives. Possible future accession to the Protocol by both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan would also be relevant to national and regional interests and, therefore, it seems appropriate and necessary to further promote accession in both countries.

Effectiveness: the Project was *highly effective*. All planned results were achieved, although the additional time was required, so non-cost project extension was approved to facilitate the official adoption of the developed project documents in Tajikistan. Perhaps stronger engagement of senior leadership from the initial phase of the project implementation, as well as additional educational activities (seminars, workshops) on the exchange of experience and best practices could improve the effectiveness of future projects in terms of shortening the time to achieve results.

Efficiency: the *efficiency* of the Project within its budget allotment *is considered as moderate*. The project team finally was able to allocate resources in such a way as to ensure adequate coverage of all the needs of the project and its partners, but significant revision of budget was required.

Sustainability: the *project has created some conditions for further sustainability*, however, at present and in the near future, external donor support would be beneficial to sustain project results. National policies and strategies in the area of water, sanitation and health that are being developed and adopted by countries can also ensure the sustainability of future activities. However, there is a need for some organizational measures to further incorporate the project results into the compulsory government documents.

Impact: the project:

- - *positively impacted* the legal, institutional and technical capacity challenges at the national level by supporting development and adoption of successful policy packages;
- contributed to *effective decision-making*;
- created the prerequisites for the formation of *ownership of key stakeholders*;

information exchange between the beneficiary countries could be further strengthened (the project paid a lot of attention to policy making while informational component was not so developed. Strengthening of informational strategy and cooperation with other programs could enlarge the final impact).

Gender: the project, together with other international organizations and initiatives, partially served as a stimulant for enhancing the gender approach in water and health issues, although *gender aspect was not developed enough* in this project.

5.2. Recommendations.

Relevance:

1. It is recommended to consider a possibility of continuing support for promoting accession to the

Protocol in the beneficiary countries and in Central Asia as a whole.

Effectiveness:

2. For future projects, direct involvement of senior leadership is crucial to ensure high effectiveness and achievements of planned results in time.
3. Additional educational events (seminars, workshops) on sharing experience and best practices would be recommended to raise effectiveness and impact of future projects.

Efficiency:

4. 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.

Sustainability:

5. It is recommended to support further activities targeted on incorporation of project results into regular government programs to ensure a full sustainability in future. For this purpose, it is recommended to consider the feasibility and possible ways to support the the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of the action plan in Tajikistan, as this was requested by the Tajik side.

Impact:

6. In order to increase the impact of future projects, UNECE is recommended to establish close cooperation with other programs and initiatives, which would enlarge the information influence and coverage.

Gender:

7. For future projects, UNECE is recommended to establish more active exchange of information with other projects and programs in order to strengthen focus on gender differences, which would support promotion of behavioral changes essential to realizing the full benefits of water and sanitation services.
8. For this purpose, special gender analysis/assessment of project document is needed at the initial stage of the project development.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Evaluation of the project:

“Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” funded by the Government of Finland

I. Purpose

The purpose of the evaluation is to review the implementation and assess the extent to which the objective of “Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” projects (hereinafter “Project”) was achieved. The evaluation will assess the relevance of the project for the beneficiary countries, *effectiveness* in reaching relevant outcomes, *efficiency* in the use of human and staff resources in reaching project objectives, *sustainability* of UNECE’s work, *impact* on the water and health cooperation between the beneficiary countries and in Central Asia in general and *coordination, synergies and complementarities* with other ongoing UNECE projects funded by Finland. The results of the evaluation will support improvement of the future technical cooperation project and activities implemented by UNECE. The results of the evaluation will be important for the discussion with donors and partner organizations for any future work by UNECE in the area of water resources management and related health outcomes in the Central Asia region and beyond.

II. Scope

The evaluation will be guided by the objective, outcomes, activities and indicators of achievement established in the logical framework of the original and revised project document. The evaluation will consider to what extent the project contributed to enhance the capacities of Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets. The evaluation will cover the full period of project’s implementation.

The evaluation will assess how gender considerations were included the projects’ design, execution and results. It will make recommendations on how gender can be included in the design of future projects in UNECE.

The full project documentation includes project design, monitoring reports, progress reports to donors, partnership arrangements with relevant actors. All relevant information will be made available, including documentation and interviews, activities of partner organizations, any previous relevant reviews or evaluations conducted, and any other information which pertains to UNECE efforts in the successful execution of the project will be included in the evaluation.

III. Background

Improving access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation has been a major challenge for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan where adverse effects of water-related diseases have been posing threats to human health and well-being. According to the 2017 World Bank report on water supply, sanitation and hygiene conditions in Tajikistan, only 57 percent of urban and 31 percent of rural households have access to safely managed water. The report also mentions that concentrations of chlorine are too low to comply with international or national health guidelines, which forces the population to resort to boiling as one of the main water treatment methods. Kyrgyzstan has significant water resources which are sufficient to meet the long-term needs of the population for drinking water. Nonetheless, the country still experiences issues with regular supply of drinking water in the required volume and quality. For both countries, the situation is especially challenging in rural areas but also in the urban ones where affordability concerns come into play. The overview of the Water Sector of Kyrgyzstan for 2013 noted, for instance, that there is a number of water-related diseases, particularly enteric infections that predominantly affect the rural population due to the poor quality of water resources. The

statistics of the global WHO/UNICEF database on drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene indicates that access to safely managed drinking water is available to 66 percent of the total population in Kyrgyzstan. The two countries lack modern legal and governance approaches, human capacity and financial resources for infrastructure development that would be required to improve this situation. A comprehensive framework and holistic approach offered by the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health allows to look at the water resources management, water supply and sanitation and the related health outcomes in an integrated manner in order to allow protecting human health and well-being by better water management and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases.

The project “Implementation of national water and health targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” (September 2015 – 30 June 2018) was signed by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and UNECE on 9 October 2015 with the overall objective to enhance capacities of the Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets set under the Protocol. A no-cost extension of the project duration until 31 December 2018 was agreed between UNECE and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 5 July 2018 and the respective amendment of the initial agreement was signed by both parties. The extension of the project will allow additional time to ensure effective dissemination of project results and communication of project achievements. The project is expected to result in revised national water and health targets in Tajikistan and adopted national action plans to implement the targets set in both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Implementation of the targets is to be supported by the legal acts and institutional arrangements in both countries.

The ultimate purpose of the project is to reduce water-related diseases, as well as to improve the sustainable management and use of water resources in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The project contributes to the achievement of this objective through better planning of national water and health objectives and through support to implementation of selected targets set under the Protocol in both countries.

In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, national water and health targets previously set in the context of the Protocol in 2013 have been reviewed and revised by a group of national experts through a consultative process with key stakeholders and endorsed in late 2016 by the Steering Committees of the National Policy Dialogues in both countries. Also, within the reporting period, action plans to achieve the targets set were developed in both countries and endorsed by the respective NPD Steering Committees. Both countries are now considering the adoption of the targets and related action plans through the official channels.

Since both countries are not yet Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, it was a challenge to ensure full and continuous political support to the project in the beginning of its implementation. However, the commitment of high level decision makers and continuous active involvement of main stakeholders has guaranteed the achievement of the project results as planned. In particular, in Tajikistan, following active engagement of UNECE with the relevant high-level authorities, political support for the finalization of the revision of targets and their subsequent adoption has been secured. For instance, at the margins of the recently held Conference on the International Decade for Action Water for Sustainable Development (Dushanbe, 20-22 June 2018), this matter was discussed at the UNECE bilateral meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources. These officials confirmed their overall support to the adoption of the revised Tajik targets. At the moment, the internal consultation process is ongoing and possible options for adoption are being discussed, i.e. through the Government Resolution or through a Joint Order of two focal ministries. In Kyrgyzstan, water and health are becoming the highest priority for the Government and there is therefore an increased understanding among the government officials regarding the usefulness of having national targets on water and health that follow the model of the Protocol. In this context, it is worth noting a recent statement of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov, which underlined that providing the population with clean drinking water was a priority for the country’s development and its Government policies and development of the state. UNECE will continue its efforts to promote the formal adoption of the revised targets and action plan at the level of the Kyrgyz Government.

The project also benefited from the commitment of both countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). In Tajikistan the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 is being promoted at highest level which often facilitated support from the decision makers for the project activities and plans. The Dushanbe Conference was largely organized around the SDG 6 and its targets, confirming the contribution the International Decade for Action Water for Sustainable Development is

expected to make to the achievement of this Goal. The Protocol on Water and Health was featured prominently at the Conference, e.g. at the Action Panel on Water and Sanitation, chaired by the Minister of Health of Tajikistan and organized by WHO. Actions related to the Protocol on Water and Health were included in one of the outcome documents of the Conference – Call for Action and Partnership, whose draft has been recently shared by the Conference secretariat. In Kyrgyzstan, the NPD Steering Committee recommended that the revised targets and action plan are incorporated or taken into account to the extent possible in the programme to implement the Kyrgyz 2040 Sustainable Development Strategy which is to be adopted by the Government in 2018. This innovative approach has been promoted as a good practice among other countries working in the framework of the Protocol in order to ensure approximation and coherence of the work under the Protocol and implementation of the water, sanitation and health targets of the 2030 Agenda, thus extending the project impact to the regional level.

IV. Issues

The following issues/questions will provide the basis for the evaluation.

Relevance

1. How relevant was the project to the national needs and priorities of beneficiary countries?
2. How relevant was the design of the project, in line with the achievements and outcomes of other initiatives?
3. To what extent was the project design and development interventions relevant for meeting the projects objective?
4. To what extent the project was relevant to the UNECE regular programme of work?

Effectiveness

1. To what extent were the expected accomplishments (outcomes) of the project achieved?
2. What were the challenges/obstacles to achieving the project objectives and expected accomplishments (outcomes)?
3. Has the project improved capacity of key stakeholders?
4. To what extent were the planned activities sufficient to achieve the expected accomplishments (outcomes) and project objective?
5. To what extent implementation of the project supported the expected accomplishments of the UNECE regular programme of work under the Subprogramme 1 “Environment”?
6. To what extent the implementation of the project contributed to the overall objectives of the Protocol on Water and Health?
7. To what extent the implementation of the project was effectively supported by and contributed to the National Policy Dialogue processes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan? What were the synergies that the project brought along?

Efficiency

1. Were the available resources appropriate to the scale of the project and the needs identified by beneficiary countries?
2. Were the human and financial resources allocated to the project used efficiently and commensurate to the project results?
3. Were the resources (financial and human) appropriate to the design of the project?
4. Were the activities implemented according to the planned timeframe?

Sustainability

1. To what extent will the results of the project continue after completion of the projects in the beneficiary countries?
2. To what degree the project influenced the policies of beneficiary countries to further pursue cooperation to improve the quality of water shared water resources?
3. To what degree the project outcomes were upscaled, e.g. national water and health targets used in government authorities’ discussions with donor community?
4. Where the measures to enhance sustainability of project results given sufficient attention during the preparation and implementation phases?

Impact

1. To what extent has the project impacted the legal, institutional and technical capacity challenges at the national and regional levels to effectively address regional water quality problems?
2. What policy packages were or were not successful and why (criteria, success factors)?
3. To what extent the project impacted effective decision-making and information exchange between the countries on water quality and related health outcomes?
4. To what extent the project resulted in increased ownership of key stakeholders allowing them to lead and drive the implementation of the targets beyond the project finalization?

V. Methodology

The methodology for the evaluation will include the following:

1. Desk study of project materials: all relevant project documents, including project descriptions, reports, publications, etc. and other information will be provided to the evaluator.
2. Interview with 10-15 key external stakeholders, including representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and Ministry of Health of Tajikistan, the Department of Water Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration and the Ministry of Health of Kyrgyzstan, international and local experts and donors (face-to-face, via telephone and skype, list of contacts to be provided).
3. Interviews with internal stakeholders including the project team and the UNECE Environment Division.
4. Some of the interviews, in particular with representatives of water management authorities, will be conducted by the evaluator in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and at the FINWaterWEI II Regional Conference planned for 26-27 September 2018, Bishkek and Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. In addition, the event will provide an opportunity to meet and discuss the project implementation and results with donor and partner organizations dealing with the water management issues in the region.
5. An electronic survey of internal and external stakeholders, conducted in both English and Russian.

UNECE will provide all documentation, support and guidance to the evaluation consultant as needed throughout the timeline of the evaluation. The consultant shall be provided the UNECE Evaluation Policy, evaluation report templates and checklists as guidance for the requirements for evaluation reports in UNECE.

The evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the UNECE Evaluation Policy. The evaluation will comply with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards, including due consideration of the gender aspects of the project's design and implementation. UNECE will provide all documentation as needed throughout the timeline of the evaluation. UNECE will provide support and further explanation to the evaluator as needed.

The evaluation report of maximum 15-20 pages will summarize the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation (with annexes including summaries from data gathering). An executive summary (max. 2 pages) will summarize the methodology of the evaluation, key findings, conclusions and recommendations.

VI. Evaluation Schedule

The evaluation schedule follows:

1. Desk review of all documents provided by UNECE to the Consultant: 25 September – 10 October 2018
2. Developing and preparing interviews: 25-30 September 2018
3. Participation in Bishkek and Issyk-Kul Conference, interviews 26-27 September 2018
4. Follow-up interviews and studies, travel to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and Geneva, Switzerland, as needed 1-30 October 2018
5. Delivery of Draft Report 30 October 2018

6. Comments back to the evaluator after review by project manager and selected project participants
15 November 2018
7. Delivery Final Report 30 November 2018

VII. Resources

Resources available for the evaluation of the project “Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues” are USD 7,000 exclusive of travel costs.

The UNECE Project manager will oversee and provide guidance during the course of the evaluation. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) will provide guidance to the Project Manager and evaluator as needed on the evaluation design, methodology and quality assurance of the final draft report.

VIII. Intended Use/Next Steps

The evaluation will be consistent with the UNECE Evaluation Policy. Following the receipt of the final report, UNECE will develop a management response, and action plan for addressing recommendations made by the consultant. The results of the evaluation shall be considered, together with other project evaluations conducted during 2018, by senior management in UNECE to address systemic inefficiencies or challenges to effective project implementation in UNECE.

IX. Criteria for Evaluators

Evaluators should have:

- An advanced university degree or equivalent background in relevant to the projects disciplines;
- Minimum 10 years of relevant experience; Working experience related to projects or issues in water management in Central Asia is highly desirable;
- Specialized training in areas such as evaluation, project management, social statistics, advanced statistical research and analysis;
- Demonstrated relevant professional experience in design, management and conduct of evaluation processes with multiple stakeholders, survey design and implementation, and project planning, monitoring and management;
- Demonstrated methodological knowledge of evaluations, including quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis for end-of-cycle project evaluations;
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Russian.
- Good computer skills (especially Microsoft office applications).

Evaluators should declare any conflict of interest to UNECE before embarking on an evaluation project, and at any point where such conflict occurs.

Appendix 2: Project Logical Framework

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions
To reduce water related diseases and to improve the sustainable management and use of water resources in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	Progress in achieving the adopted national water and health targets	WHO annual country reports Reports of GLAAS surveys Voluntary reports to the Meeting of Parties of the Protocol on Water and Health Environmental performance review reports	Effective water management and cross-border cooperation contribute to stability and security and thus to sustainable economic development
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions
To enhance the capacities of Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets	National Action Plan developed and adopted in Kyrgyzstan National targets revised and adopted and National Action Plan developed and adopted in Tajikistan Necessary legal acts and institutional arrangements supporting the implementation of water and health targets in place in both countries	Minutes of NPD meetings GLAAS reports Voluntary reports to the Meeting of Parties of the Protocol on Water and Health	There is political will to implement the Protocol's provisions, in particular the provisions in article 6 and article 7 (dealing with target setting and review of progress). NPD Steering Committees are committed to contribute to the process and that donor communities are willing to participate in the NPD process.
Result 1	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions
Action Plan for Kyrgyzstan adopted to ensure coordinated implementation of national water and health targets and coherence of national policies with Protocol principles	Progress in elaboration and adoption of the Action Plan Wide stakeholder involvement in the process	Materials and minutes of NPD meetings Lists of participants Reports and publications	Continued Government willingness to develop Action plan Support by NPD Steering Committee Chair

<p>Activity 1.1 Drafting of Action plan and roadmap</p> <p>Activity 1.2 Consultations with stakeholders</p> <p>Activity 1.3 Adoption of Action plan at NPD Steering Committee</p>
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Result 2	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions
<p>Set of measures proposed and adopted in Kyrgyzstan to contribute to the implementation of non-infrastructural water and health targets.</p>	<p>Progress in agreeing on and executing measures to implement the non-infrastructural water and health targets</p> <p>Wide stakeholder involvement in the process</p> <p>Number of people trained</p>	<p>Materials and minutes of NPD meetings</p> <p>Legal acts and expert papers on institutional arrangements</p> <p>UNECE progress reports</p> <p>Lists of participants</p> <p>Training reports</p>	<p>Sufficient staff time and technical resources will be available from the ministries and agencies</p>

<p>Activity 2.1 Establishing of national expert group and its ToR</p> <p>Activity 2.2 Drafting and adoption of legal acts and institutional arrangements for implementation of water and health targets</p> <p>Activity 2.3 Organization of regular trainings/workshops for water utilities, rural public associations of drinking water and other beneficiaries</p>

Result 3	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions
<p>National water and health targets updated and formally adopted and Action Plan for implementation developed in Tajikistan</p>	<p>Progress in updating the targets and developing the Action Plan for implementation in Tajikistan</p>	<p>Materials and minutes of NPD meetings</p> <p>Reports and publications</p>	<p>Continued Government willingness to formally adopt targets, support by Steering Committee Chair</p>

<p>Activity 3.1 Establishing of national expert group and its ToR (will also be in charge of Result 4)</p> <p>Activity 3.2 Revision of draft water and health targets</p> <p>Activity 3.3 Adoption of revised water and health targets</p>

Result 4	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions
<p>Set of measures proposed and adopted to contribute to the implementation of non-infrastructure water and health targets in Tajikistan</p>	<p>Progress in agreeing on and executing measures to implement the non-infrastructure water and health targets</p> <p>Wide stakeholder involvement in the process</p> <p>Number of people trained</p>	<p>Materials and minutes of NPD meetings</p> <p>Legal acts and expert papers on institutional arrangements</p> <p>UNECE progress reports</p> <p>Lists of participants</p> <p>Training reports</p>	<p>Sufficient staff time and technical resources will be available from the ministries and agencies</p>
<p>Activity 4.1 Drafting and adoption of legal acts and institutional arrangements for implementation of water and health targets</p> <p>Activity 4.2 Organization of regular trainings/workshops for water utilities, rural public associations of drinking water and other beneficiaries</p>			

Appendix 3: List of Reviewed Documents

General/ UNECE Documents:

UNECE. Support Guide for Conducting Evaluation, 2014

United Nations Evaluation Group Norms and Standards for Evaluation, 2016

Web-based Evaluation Manual, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, 2018

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, 2015

Water for a Sustainable World, The UN World Water Development Report 2015

UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) 2017 Report

Sustainable Development Goal 6: Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation, 2018

UN General Assembly, Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda: A Practical Guide for Joint Implementation. Geneva, 2019

World Water Development Report 2019: 'Leaving no one behind'

Project Based Documents:

Implementation of national water and health targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues. Programme for Finland's Water Sector support to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan 2014-2017, FinWaterWEI II.

NPD_UNECE_Project Document_FINAL_Annexes_1-5_18.06.2015

ECE-WHO Report of the Meeting of the Parties on its fourth session. Programme of work for 2017-2019

Draft final substantive report and funds utilization report 1 September 2015 – 30 June 2018

14th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, Dushanbe, Nov 30, 2018

ECE/ EUPCR Report, 15th meeting, 2017

Finnish Program on Supporting of water sector in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, FinWaterWei II, 2014

NPD in Kyrgyzstan, 2008-2013

Other sources and links:

Green Climate Fund mandate, programming cycle, opportunities and climate rationale for water. 2018

Aid Flows to the Water Sector. Overview and Recommendations. WBG, 2016

F. Bernardini. Protocol on Water and Health. UNECE/WHO, 2010

“On water safety”, Law of Kyrgyz Republic #67, 2017

National Policy Dialogs in European Union. Achievements and lessons. UNECE, 2013

Development of a System of National Indicators of Water, Food and Energy Security of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2018

Standards and norms of water quality in Kyrgyz Republic, 2009

NPD in Kazakhstan, 2013-2017.

Protocol on Water and Health: Formation of Changes. WHO, 2006

Crisis in Central Asia: Key Challenges and Opportunities, New School University, 2010

Aquastat data, <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/data/query/index.html?lang=en>

Water financing in Central Asia. Global Water Partnership Report, 2008

CAEWDP Report, 2015

Appendix 4: Evaluation Questionnaire

Questionnaire for Protocol Project Evaluation

Relevance

<i>Main basic questions</i>	<i>Follow-up questions</i>
1. How relevant was the project to the national needs and priorities of beneficiary countries?	What are specific country's goals/targets related to the project? How could you formulate a problem solved by Project? Do you think the project is related to strategic country's interest(s)?
2. How relevant was the design of the project, in line with the achievements and outcomes of other initiatives?	What are these other initiatives? Do they complement the project? Any overlapping? How could you describe the overall picture and specific project's role/outcome/impact?
3. To what extent was the project design and development interventions relevant for meeting the projects objective?	Do you think project objectives could be achieved in other ways?
4. To what extent the project was relevant to the UNECE regular programme of work?	

Effectiveness

1. To what extent were the expected accomplishments (outcomes) of the project achieved?	Could the project achieve all its results according to the project document? If so, under what conditions? If accomplishments (outcomes) are less than expected, what is the reason – is there external
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	obstacles or internal issues (political instability, time constraints, planning, etc.)?
2. What were the challenges/obstacles to achieving the project objectives and expected accomplishments (outcomes)?	What obstacles could be neutralized, and what were crucial? Were risks/mitigations developed properly at the beginning of the project? Were they modified later?
3. Has the project improved capacity of key stakeholders?	How could you formulate stakeholders' capacity before the project? Now?
4. To what extent were the planned activities sufficient to achieve the expected accomplishments (outcomes) and project objective?	Was it possible to conduct other/additional activities to achieve the same (or even more) outcome(s)? If so, what activities would you suggest?
5. To what extent implementation of the project supported the expected accomplishments of the UNECE regular programme of work under the Subprogramme 1 "Environment"?	How could you compare project's results with these accomplishments?
6. To what extent the implementation of the project contributed to the overall objectives of the Protocol on Water and Health?	Do you think the project contributed to improving situation with water and health in your country? Was setting of national water and health targets useful for your country. Would the project eventually lead to your country's ratification of the Protocol?
7. To what extent the implementation of the project was effectively supported by and contributed to the National Policy Dialogue processes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan? What were the synergies that the project brought along?	What was the contribution of the National Policy Dialogues framework in the project implementation? Is there any real synergies? How can the NPDs further support achievement of the project objectives and follow up on the project results?

Efficiency

1. Were the available resources appropriate to the scale of the project and the needs identified by beneficiary countries?	Do you think resources were allocated properly?
2. Were the human and financial resources allocated to the project used efficiently and commensurate to the project results?	Was there any opportunity to organize resources better? If so, why this opportunity was not implemented?
3. Were the resources (financial and human) appropriate to the design of the project?	Do you think, some project activities suffered from a shortage of resources, while other have even extra resources?
4. Were the activities implemented according to the planned timeframe?	Were there any significant delays, re-scheduling or other time issues? Why? What is the best mitigation strategy to avoid this in future?

Sustainability

5. To what extent will the results of the project continue after completion of the projects in the beneficiary countries?	Who will fund implementation of the national water and health targets? Was engagement of
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	other stakeholders, beyond national governments, considered (donor community)? Do countries have enough qualified staff to continue implementing project objectives?
6. To what degree the project influenced the policies of beneficiary countries to further pursue cooperation to improve the quality of water shared water resources?	Are countries going to become Protocol parties (sign, ratify)? Was the project helpful to exchange experience between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as with the broader Protocol community?
7. To what degree the project outcomes were upscaled, e.g. national water and health targets used in government authorities' discussions with donor community?	What kind of opportunities were used to attract attention of high-level decision makers and donor community to the project results.
8. Were the measures to enhance sustainability of project results given sufficient attention during the preparation and implementation phases?	Is there a plan to continue implementing the targets (with milestones, indicators, terms and responsibilities)? Were mechanisms for regular review foreseen by the national authorities?

Impact

5. To what extent has the project impacted the legal, institutional and technical capacity challenges at the national and regional levels to effectively address regional water quality problems?	Give any examples, please. Are there any qualitative and quantitatively measured results (impact)?
6. What policy packages were or were not successful and why (criteria, success factors)?	Were these failures (if any) the result of lack of priority? Political instability? Other reasons?
7. To what extent the project impacted effective decision-making and information exchange between the countries on water quality and related health outcomes?	Will this exchange be continued after the project, do you think? What are reasons to think so?
8. To what extent the project resulted in increased ownership of key stakeholders allowing them to lead and drive the implementation of the targets beyond the project finalization?	Give any examples (decisions, documents etc) of stakeholders' ownership.

Gender-specific questions:

- To what extent was gender quality and women's empowerment advance as a result of these projects?

Do you generally think this project was successful?

Do you think, project should be continued?

What are your recommendations to UNECE?

What are your recommendations to national governments?

Any addition details/thoughts?

Appendix 5: List of Interviews (Chronological order)

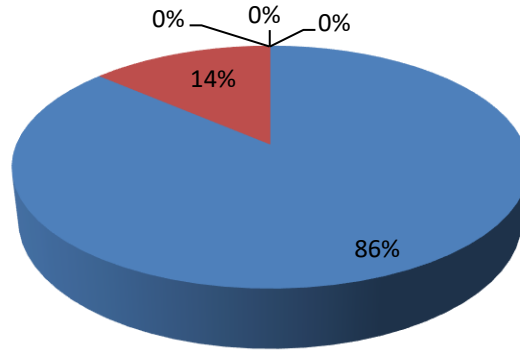
Protocol project			
Name	Position	Relationship with the project	Date
Tilek Isabekov	Chief Researcher, National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, Institute of Water Problems and Hydropower (former Head of Coordination Council)	Local Expert	25.09.2018
Erkin Orolbayev	UNECE Consultant, Bishkek	UNECE staff	25.09.2018
Harsha Ratnaweera	Project Expert, UNECE	International Expert	25.09.2018
Bakhtiyor Umarov	Tajik Technical University	WG Member	25.09.2018
Assel Raimkulova	Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry, KG	SC member	26.09.2018
Anara Choitonbaeva	Chairwoman of Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation	WG member	26.09.2018
Bubujan Arykbaeva,	Head of Infection Disease prophylactics Department, Ministry of Health KR	SC member	26.09.2018
Taisia Neronova,	OECD Project Expert	Counterpart	28.09.2018
Nina Valiyeva	Team Leader, Working group on environmental indicators development for National monitoring system and management of environmental information Kerege	Counterpart	28.09.2018
Tea Törnroos,	Head of International Affairs Unit, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), FinWaterWEI II	Donor's Representative	28.09.2018
Kati Pritsi	International affairs unit SYKE, FinWaterWEI II	Donor's Representative	28.09.2018
Gul Sharifov	Deputy Head of Water Resources Department, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources	SC member	29.09.2018
Shafoat Nazifov	Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation	WG member	29.09.2018
Sami Komolov	Academy of Science of Tajikistan	Local Expert	09.11.2018
Nazokat Isaeva, Tea Törnroos	FinWaterWEI national officer	Donor's Representative	13.11.2018
Sulton Rahimzoda	Vice-Minister of Energy and Water Resources	SC Chairman	13.11.2018
Safo Kalandarov	WHO/Europe country office representative	Counterpart	14.11.2018

2 people: Mahmadali Tabarov + his boss	SanEpid Department, Ministry of Health	WG members	15.11.2018
Kamol Obidov		Local expert	15.11.2018
Nataliya Nikiforova	UNECE	UNECE staff	24.01.2019
Alisher Mamadzhonov	UNECE/NPD	UNECE staff	24.01.2019

Appendix 6: Diagrams (pie charts) on survey results

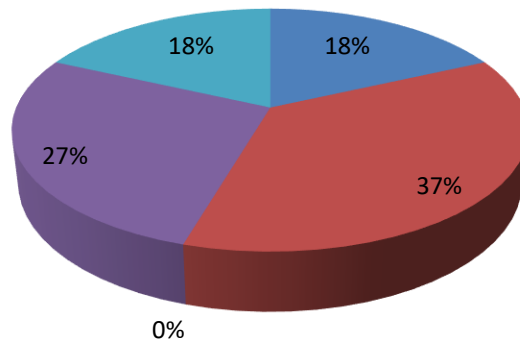
How relevant was the project to the national needs and priorities of beneficiary countries?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



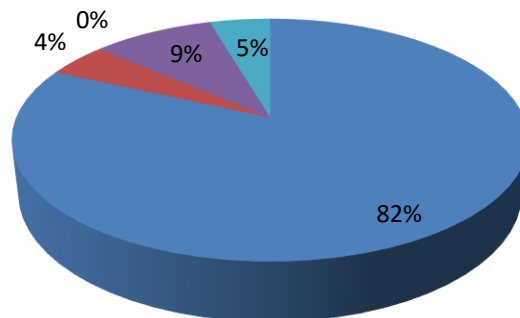
How relevant was the design of the project, in line with the achievements and outcomes of other initiatives?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



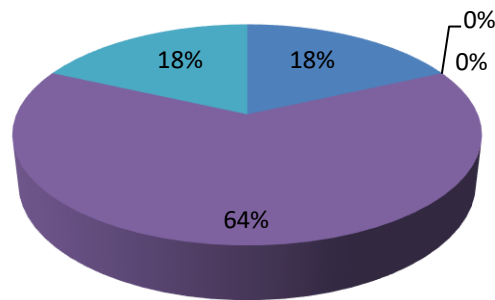
To what extent was the project design and development interventions relevant for meeting the projects objective?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



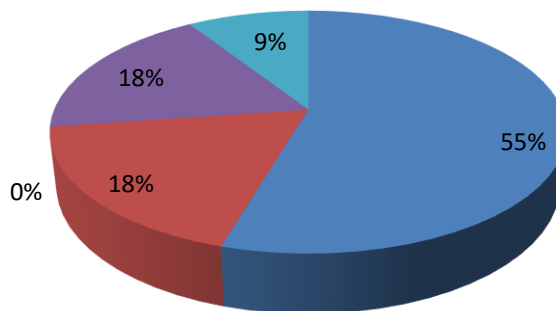
To what extent implementation of the project supported the expected accomplishments of the UNECE regular programme of work under the Subprogramme 1 "Environment"?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



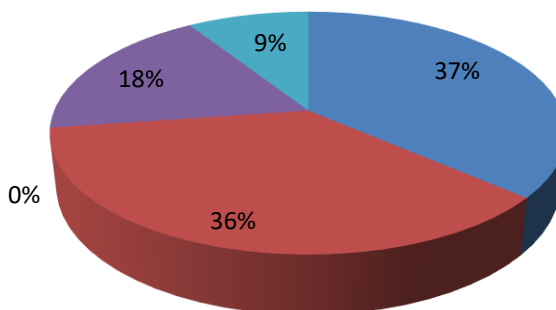
To what extent were the expected accomplishments (outcomes) of the project achieved?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



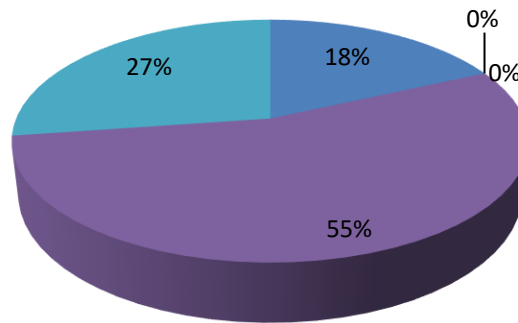
To what extent were the planned activities sufficient to achieve the expected accomplishments (outcomes) and project objective?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



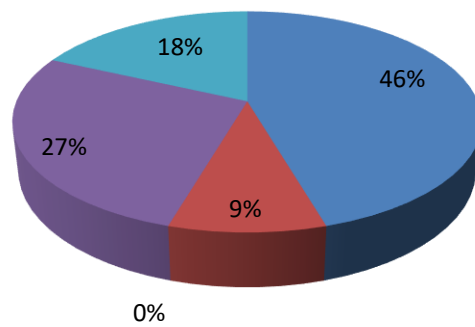
To what extent the implementation of the project contributed to the overall objectives of the Protocol on Water and Health?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



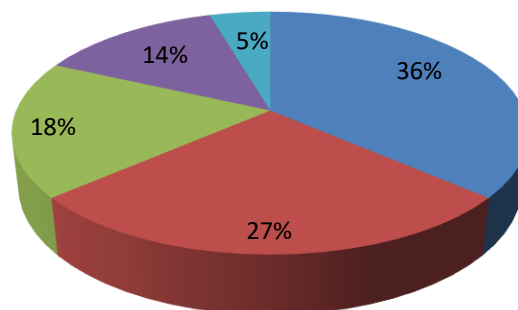
To what extent the implementation of the project was effectively supported by and contributed to the National Policy Dialogue processes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



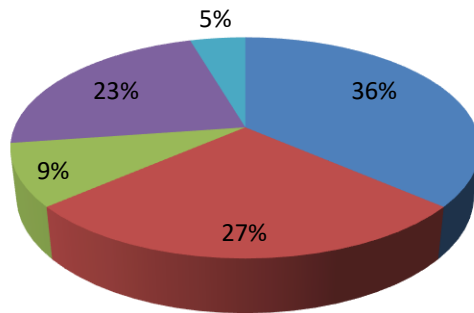
To what extent will the results of the project continue after completion of the projects in the beneficiary countries?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



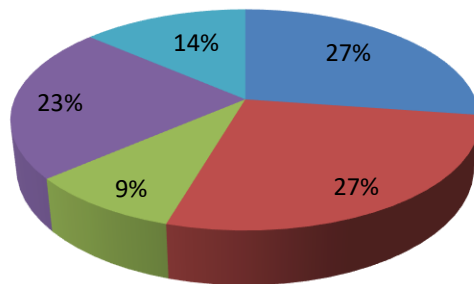
To what degree the project influenced the policies of beneficiary countries to further pursue cooperation to improve the quality of water shared water

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



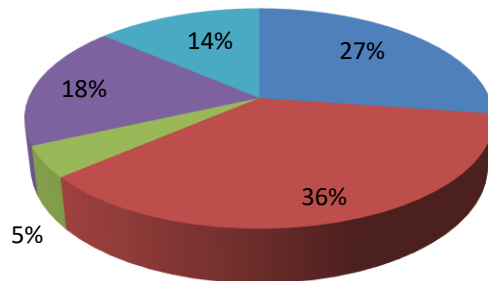
To what degree the project outcomes were upscaled, e.g. national water and health targets used in government authorities' discussions with donor community?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



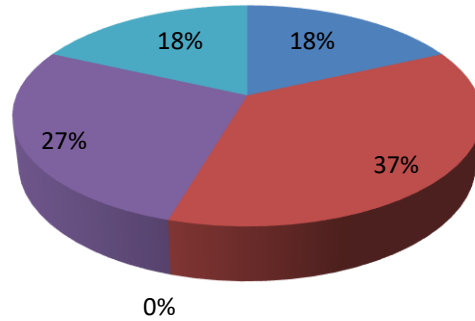
To what extent has the project impacted the legal, institutional and technical capacity challenges at the national and regional levels to effectively address regional water quality problems?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



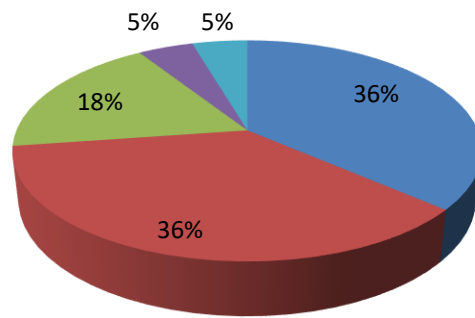
To what extent the project impacted effective decision-making and information exchange between the countries on water quality and related health

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



To what extent the project resulted in increased ownership of key stakeholders allowing them to lead and drive the implementation of the targets beyond the project finalization?

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low ■ Not sure ■ No answer



Appendix 7: Achievement of results

The table below provides information on the degree of achievement of the planned results.

	Level	Conclusion	Comment
Overall Goal:	to reduce water related diseases and to improve the sustainable management and use of water resources in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan		
Objective	Progress in achieving the adopted national water and health targets	Progress achieved within the project duration, further implementation of the national targets on water and health in both countries by the national authorities is underway	See comments to Results below
Project Goal:	To enhance the capacities of Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in implementation of the selected policy-related national water and health targets		
Objectives	National Action Plan developed and adopted in Kyrgyzstan	Completed. National Action Plan was adopted by the 16th NPD Steering Committee meeting, and then transmitted by the Ministry of Agriculture to the National Institute for Strategic Studies of Kyrgyzstan in order to ensure their integration into the National Sustainable Development Strategy and Program.	See comments to Results below
	National targets revised and adopted and National Action Plan developed and adopted in Tajikistan	Completed. Revised national targets and National Action Plan were approved by the 14th NPD Steering Committee at 30.11.2018, and recommended to be included into National Water Strategy.	See comments to Results below
	Necessary legal acts and institutional arrangements supporting the implementation of water and health targets in place in both countries	Completed. Both countries developed and adopted necessary legal acts and arranged the necessary institutions for further support and implementation of national water and health targets. National Indicators System (NIS) is being developed in Kyrgyz Republic in the course of adapting the SDG indicators at the national level, which are in turn included into the Sustainable Development Strategy of The Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040. In Tajikistan, the NPD Steering Committee will oversee the implementation of the targets.	See comments to Results below

Result 1	Action Plan for Kyrgyzstan adopted to ensure coordinated implementation of national water and health targets and coherence of national policies with Protocol principles		
Objectives	Progress in elaboration and adoption of the Action Plan	Completed. NPD Steering Committee adopted National Action Plan on 20.07.17	<p>The process of developing the action plan started in spring 2016 with establishment of a working group to address the matter. Initially consisting of 9 people, it was later expanded to 12. April to November 2016 was spent on analyzing, revising and harmonizing targets of 2013 action plan, which turned out only partially completed and still relevant.</p> <p>December 2016 marked adoption of the revised targets to be included in the action plan, which was in line with the schedule and set objectives.</p> <p>December 2016 to June 2017 was dedicated to elaboration of a detailed action plan. The plan was made sure to be consistent with national sustainable development goals relating to health and water matters.</p> <p>The final Action Plan was adopted by the 16th NPD Steering Committee meeting held on 20.07.2017</p>

	Wide stakeholder involvement in the process	Completed	<p>Wide stakeholder involvement was ensured by intention to incorporate the targets and the action plan into National Sustainable Development Strategy, which is the document and the concept that can be influenced by National Institute of Strategic Studies under the Prime Minister, thus the inclusion and referring of the plan to the institute made it available to the highest level decision-makers and ensured attention on behalf of all stakeholders.</p> <p>The working group, which consisted of 12 representatives of various bodies and organizations to integrate the widest array of knowledge and expertise, arranged 4 meetings aimed at revising and amending the action plan. The meetings were attended by international, local experts, as well as local project manager. The expert group also took part in discussions of the plan by NPD committees in December 2016, June 2017 and January 2018.</p>
Result 2	Set of measures proposed and adopted in Kyrgyzstan to contribute to the implementation of non-infrastructure water and health targets		

<p style="text-align: center;">Objectives</p>	<p>Progress in agreeing on and executing measures to implement the non-infrastructure water and health targets</p>	<p>Completed (official approval expected in 2019)</p>	<p>Following the adoption of the plan, the expert group suggested revising existing legal framework, namely carrying out an inventory of national laws and regulations (existing and under development) for wastewater discharge, treatment and reuse as well as for drinking water sources selection requirements. Following the inventory, another group of experts suggested there two more regulations at the national level were needed - regulation on industrial wastewater discharge in the urban sanitation systems and regulation on selection of water sources for drinking water supplies establishment of sanitary control of drinking water sources. This proposal was approved by the 16th NPD meeting.</p> <p>Drafting and designing of the documents was supported by a highly experienced expert in the field of non-infrastructure water issues from Belarus. The expert supported the analysis of the Kyrgyz legal framework, as well as benchmarking it against the one of Belarus. This allowed to identify certain gaps and omissions, which then were filled and corrected by the two drafted documents, “Rules for exploitation and control of wastewater treatment facilities and wastewater discharge” and “Rules for industrial wastewater collection in the centralized sanitation systems”. The NPD approved the documents and recommended sending them for interministerial consultation by the relevant ministries and committees. It is expected to include the laws into the 2019 plant of adoption of legal acts. Coordination and monitoring is to be performed by the Department of Water Supply and Wastewater Development of the State Agency for Construction and Communal Utilities Development.</p>
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	Wide stakeholder involvement in the process	Completed	Just like with the action plan development and adoption, the existing working groups facilitated discussions and ensured involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Besides local expertise, the working group also hired international experts upon need. The Belorussian expert attended one of the working group meetings and the 17th NPD in 2017. NGOs were presented by women, who actively participated in the discussions.
	Number of people trained	Completed	<p>Training sessions for Kyrgyz professionals were envisaged to take place in late September and late October 2018 in Bishkek and Osh respectively. Organizing parties are the Kyrgyz National University and Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University, in partnership with the Norwegian Water Harmony project on Harmonisation of Water Education (www.waterh.net). Target audience of the sessions was planned to be about 30 people, each of them receiving a completion certificate. The topics to be covered include legal aspects of water treatment, protection of water at source, drinking water quality analysis, water supply networks, wastewater transport and treatment, etc. The organization of trainings were to be co-funded by the Norwegian Water Harmony project which will provide international Russian-speaking lecturers and course materials as well as co-finance logistics.</p> <p>Kyrgyz stakeholders' attendance to intergovernmental meetings and international workshops was also considered as training. There is no number of attendees quoted, however, but there is a positive evidence of the Kyrgyz delegation sharing their experience in aligning national targets with SGDs within the process of elaboration of the practical guide for joint implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda discussed in Geneva in May 2017.</p>
Result 3	National water and health targets updated and formally adopted and Action Plan for implementation developed in Tajikistan		

<p style="text-align: center;">Objectives</p>	<p>Progress in updating the targets and developing the Action Plan for implementation in Tajikistan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Completed</p>	<p>From April 2016 to March 2017 a dedicated working group reviewed and revised existing targets relating to water safety and availability. The overall conclusion drawn upon revision advised aggregation, elimination, revision of the existing set of targets to make them more SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-specific). They were then presented to the 11th NPD in December 2016, which recommended sending them for consultation to the Ministry of Energy and Water and the Ministry of Health. Upon approval, the plan was presented to the 12th NPD Steering Committee in July 2017.</p> <p>In January 2018 the 13th NPD served as a forum for discussing the matters and documents with the key national stakeholders - Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Health and Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The NPD approved the suggestions and recommended sending the Action Plan, along with the proposed funding scheme, for consultation to the relevant authorities.</p> <p>The revised plan clearly outlines the priority areas to be addressed, mechanisms to address them, as well as possible funding comprising both the state budget and donor finding. The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources asked for a more detailed explanation of the assumed financials and economics which was addressed by a financial expert and then referred for review by the 13th NPD Steering Committee. Following the overall consent with the proposals, the plan was referred to the Ministry of International Affairs to gain its support of granting international status to the project. On 30 November 2018, NPD Steering Committee at its 14th meeting approved the set of revised targets and the National Action Plan.</p>
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	Wide stakeholder involvement in the process	Completed	The working group was designed to include all relevant parties and stakeholders, and active involvement of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources ensured actual and efficient participation of key decision-makers and the executive level. International consultant and UNECE organized a meeting with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the Ministry of Health. The WHO Country Office was an active member of the working group and contributed to execution of the implementation of targets related to ensuring water safety. Independent platforms and NGOs such as TajWCC, and CAREC were also included in the discussion rounds.
Result 4	Set of measures proposed and adopted to contribute to the implementation of non-infrastructure water and health targets in Tajikistan		
Objectives	Progress in agreeing on and executing measures to implement the non-infrastructure water and health targets	Completed	<p>The revision of the initial targets resulted in setting a total of 50 draft targets, with only a few of them concerning non-investment activities. These non-investment targets were: elaborating a methodology for collection, storage and presentation of statistical data on access to water and on water use and discharge and providing input to the national water strategy. The 12th NPD approved execution of these selected targets and a working group of 6 national experts representing different bodies and ministries started the work.</p> <p>In May 2017, the working group completed drafting several chapters about drinking water supply and sanitation for the National Water Strategy of Tajikistan and Reporting template on drinking water for State Statistics Office and referred the two documents to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, which approved them and incorporated the chapters into the National Water Strategy that is currently being developed.</p>

	Wide stakeholder involvement in the process	Completed	Active involvement of the Ministry of Energy and Water resources facilitated building a diverse and relevant team of experts, as well as escalating the matters for revision to the national executive level authorities.
	Number of people trained	Completed	Training sessions for Tajik professionals were envisaged to take place in late September and late October 2018 in Khujand and Dushanbe respectively. Organizing parties were the Tajik Technical University, in partnership with the Norwegian Water Harmony project on Harmonisation of Water Education (www.waterh.net). Target audience of the sessions was planned to be about 30 people, each of them receiving a completion certificate. The topics to be covered included legal aspects of water treatment, protection of water at source, drinking water quality analysis, water supply networks, wastewater transport and treatment, etc. The organization of trainings was to be co-funded by the Norwegian Water Harmony project which would provide international Russian-speaking lecturers and course materials as well as co-finance logistics.

Time schedule of project implementation

	Planned
	Implemented

Results	Activities	2015 3Q	2015 4Q	2016 1Q	2016 2Q	2016 3Q	2016 4Q	2017 1Q	2017 2Q	2017 3Q	2017 4Q	2018 1Q	2018 2Q	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	
1. Action Plan for Kyrgyzstan adopted to ensure coordinated implementation of national water and health targets and coherence of national policies with Protocol principles	Activity 1.1 Drafting of Action plan and roadmap															
							The action plan was developed by the expert group between December 2016 and June 2017.									
	Activity 1.2 Consultations with stakeholders															
					Between April and November 2016, the expert group analysed implementation and relevance of the 2013 national targets on water and health drafted a set of revised national targets and suggested structure of the action plan for implementation.											
	Activity 1.3 Adoption of Action plan at NPD Steering Committee															
										The final Action Plan was adopted by the 16th NPD Steering Committee meeting held on						

