


## MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

<b>Evaluation Title:</b>	Implementation of the National Water and Health Targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues		
<b>Period of Review:</b>	October 2018 – February 2019		
<b>Date of Evaluation Report:</b>	05/06/2019		
<b>Approved by</b>	Catherine Haswell Chief, Programme Management Unit	Date	Signature
		07/10/2019	
<b>Cleared by:</b>	Officer-in-charge Sergiusz Ludwiczak, Deputy Director of Environment Division	07/10/2019	Sergiusz Ludwiczak
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Manager of the evaluation Nataliya Nikiforova, Environmental Affairs Officer	30/09/2019	Nataliya Nikiforova

### **Recommendation 1:**

It is recommended to consider a possibility of continuing support for promoting accession to the Protocol on Water and Health in the beneficiary countries and in Central Asia in general.

### **Management Response:**

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

### **Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

UNECE continues to promote accession to the Protocol on Water and Health in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as also in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, both through organization of briefings on Protocol obligations and technical activities under the programme of work. EUWI+ programme, and the National Policy Dialogues supported under its framework, provides a platform for continuous follow up. The upcoming fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Belgrade, 19-21 November 2019) will provide another opportunity to promote accession to the Protocol among all Central Asian countries (Nataliya Nikiforova, Environmental Affairs Officer).

### **Recommendation 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.

### **Management Response:**

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

### **Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

UNECE had involved high-level officials in both beneficiary countries from the very beginning of the project. However, political changes in the ministries or in the governments can happen at any time and are

beyond UNECE control. UNECE will continue to follow the approach of facilitating involvement of senior leadership into similar projects in the future, including through the UNECE senior leadership (Nataliya Nikiforova , Environmental Affairs Officer).

**Recommendation 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.

**Management Response:**

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

In future similar projects UNECE will include awareness activities to improve visibility and effectiveness of the project results. The type of awareness activities (awareness-raising campaigns, promotion events, visual materials) will be discussed closely with the relevant stakeholders and communication experts (Nataliya Nikiforova , Environmental Affairs Officer).

**Recommendation 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.

**Management Response:**

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

UNECE made considerable efforts and succeeded in effectively establishing a relationship with high-level decision-makers in both countries. However, in terms of nomination of experts for the working groups, the decision power to designate officials remains within the relevant authorities and is beyond UNECE control. In future similar projects UNECE will make efforts to recommend participants with a high level of responsibilities (Nataliya Nikiforova , Environmental Affairs Officer).

**Recommendation 5:**

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

**Management Response:**

UNECE accepts this recommendation

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

UNECE will continue following up on the implementation of the targets set in the context of the Protocol under the project. In addition to the accountability framework provided by the National Policy Dialogues, within the Protocol programme of work for 2020-2022, UNECE will make efforts to promote the inclusion of the targets into the national policies, strategies and programmes in both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (Nataliya Nikiforova , Environmental Affairs Officer).

**Recommendation 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.

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**Management Response:**

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

For future projects, UNECE will coordinate its activities with the relevant UN agencies and other donors through direct contacts and at the relevant events as it was done earlier. UNECE will work with the Regional UNDG Teams, Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to facilitate the achievement of shared results (Nataliya Nikiforova , Environmental Affairs Officer).

**Recommendation 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.

**Management Response:**

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

For future projects, UNECE will make additional efforts to engage with the projects working on the human rights to water and sanitation as well as the relevant civil society actors. However, the decision on the engagement of such stakeholders in projects ultimately lies with the concerned governments (Nataliya Nikiforova , Environmental Affairs Officer).

**Recommendation 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.

**Management Response:**

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

For future projects, UNECE will pay increased to consideration of gender aspects and gender mainstreaming at the stage of the project proposal development. In doing so, UNECE will follow its Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2016-2020), available at [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publications\\_and\\_papers/UNECE\\_Policy\\_on\\_GEEW\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publications_and_papers/UNECE_Policy_on_GEEW_Final.pdf) (Nataliya Nikiforova , Environmental Affairs Officer).