

Status of Implementation of the recommendations from the evaluation of the UNDA project 1415AF

***Strengthening Governments' and Water Operators' Capacity to Ensure Equity of Access to Water and Sanitation in Countries with Economies in Transition in the UNECE Region, with a Particular Focus on Small-Scale Water Supplies and Sanitation in Rural Areas***

Evaluation report - March 2018

**Progress report as at 31 December 2018**

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Date of implementation/comments
1	<p><b>As part of the Protocol on Water and Health work programme 2017-2019, UNECE should consider to extending the Project (similar scope, activities, outcomes, etc.) to other countries that are either signatories, Parties and are considering ratifying the Protocol.</b></p> <p><b>More emphasis should be directed towards addressing issues and inequities and challenges of small-scale sanitation systems, including the challenge of financing sanitation systems, wastewater and sewerage infrastructure. With the Water Safety Plans, it recommended to include sanitation into the overall concept of water and sanitation safety planning</b></p>	<p><b>The recommendation is fully accepted.</b></p> <p>(a) Look for additional funding opportunities to implement activities of the 2017-2019 Programme of Work of the Protocol on Water and Health, by organizing meetings with potential donors (for meeting with SOC planned in May 2018), writing letters inviting contributions (by end 2018) and inviting donors to country activities implemented under the Protocol (on-going): UNECE, WHO/Europe, Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health, on-going efforts.</p> <p>(b) Develop a guidance document on sustainable financing of small-scale water supplies and sanitation: WHO/Europe, by the next session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2019</p>	<p>Transboundary Cooperation Section</p> <p>Chantal Demilecamps Environmental Affairs Officer</p>	<p>(a) Meeting of the secretariat with the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency in June 2018, with the European Commission in October 2018 to discuss support to the implementation of the activities under the Protocol and letter sent to all Parties in April 2018 to invite financial contributions for the implementation of the 2017-2019 programme of work.</p> <p>(a) Presentation of the Protocol activities at the 7th Meeting for Nordic Baltic Network for Water and Health, Uppsala, Sweden (4 Dec 2018) and bilateral discussion to prompt support to the Protocol implementation</p> <p>(b) In progress. The 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties will be held on 19-21 November 2019.</p>

2	<p><b>As number of the countries that participated in the Project have highlighted that they would like to continue with the project activities, such as developing additional Action Plans to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation, Water Safety Plans, amongst others, hence this should be considered in future work projections. For the country missions/consultations, they should be budgeted with an additional budget for organizing a country workshop/ consultation meeting in the targeted countries and some national consultancy support (to draft a country profile). For any future similar technical cooperation programme/projects, the inclusion of a component for developing and implementing pilot projects (i.e. monitoring small-scale water supply (treatment, distribution) and small-scale sewerage/wastewater systems, Water Safety Plans in a few small-scale sites) to gain local experience would provide added value.</b></p> <p><b>The guidance Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems. Tools and good practices from the pan-European Region should be officially translated into other languages, such as Albanian, Armenian, Serbian. Consideration should be given to translating guidance into beneficiary country languages in future (similar) projects.</b></p> <p><b>UNECE should consider holding workshops, meetings in locations outside of capital cities to ensure a wider participation beyond capital cities.</b></p>	<p><b>The recommendation is partially accepted.</b></p> <p>(a) Follow up planning of country activities on equitable access to water and sanitation (in Serbia - Support to the development of an Equitable Access Action plan to start in July 2018, to be completed by January 2019, funded by the French Ministry of Solidarities and Health; Azerbaijan - finalization of the Equitable Access Assessment planned in May 2018, integrated and funded under on-going EUWI activities in Azerbaijan; Bulgaria - finalization of the Equitable Access Assessment planned in June 2018, funded by the French Ministry of Solidarities and Health as confirmed for 2018-2019 as well as Georgia and Belarus pending confirmation of funds - project proposal to be submitted by the NGO Women in Europe for a Common Future and UNECE by 15 May 2018 to implement activities in Georgia) and coordinate with EUWI+ project activities: UNECE</p> <p>(b) Implement planned actions on Water Safety Planning, pending confirmation of funds: WHO/Europe.</p>	<p>Transboundary Cooperation Section</p> <p>Chantal Demilecamps Environmental Affairs Officer</p>	<p>(a) Serbia: Development of a regional Equitable Access Action Plan was launched on 15 August 2018; Final consultative workshop planned on 20 December 2018, Action Plan to be finalized in February 2019, UNECE.</p> <p>(a) Azerbaijan: National equitable access assessment was finalized in July 2018</p> <p>(a) Bulgaria: National equitable access assessment was finalized in July 2018</p> <p>(a) Equitable access assessment to be launched in Belarus first trimester 2019, in coordination with EUWI+ activities. No sufficient funds to work in Georgia.</p> <p>(b) On-going. Future work on Water Safety Planning to be carried out under the 2020-2022 programme of work of the Water Convention, to be adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties in November 2019.</p>
3	<p><b>Continuation with similar Project implementation arrangements and the personnel who managed and executed the Project at the UNECE and</b></p>	<p><b>The recommendation is fully accepted.</b></p> <p>(a) Coordination of activities implemented by</p>	<p>Transboundary Cooperation Section</p>	<p>(a) On-going, as UNECE and WHO/Europe provide joint secretariat of the Protocol.</p>

<p><b>WHO/Europe (and other Implementing Organizations).</b></p>	<p>UNECE and WHO/Europe: on-going process of coordination between UNECE and WHO /Europe for the implementation of all activities under the joint secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health.</p> <p>(b) Fundraising efforts to be carried out in 2018 (cf. recommendation 1)</p>	<p>Chantal Demilecamps Environmental Affairs Officer</p>	<p>(b) Cf recommendation 1 (a)</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The UNECE and WHO/Europe should continue its efforts in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation/small-scale water and sanitation and continue its good cooperation with other Implementing Organizations, IFIs, donors and other stakeholders, such as the Balkan WASH network.</b></li> <li>• <b>Increased emphasis should be placed on identifying and securing funding to finance measures, i.e. water supply, wastewater and sewerage infrastructure, which are planned in, for example Action Plans, to improve equitable access to water and sanitation.</b></li> <li>• <b>Such project approaches as establishment of the multi-sector stakeholder engagement and twinning on the one hand, and the development of action plans and Water Safety Plans to ensure safe and equitable access to water and sanitation should be replicated in any follow-on work</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>The recommendation is fully accepted.</b></p> <p>(a) Coordinate the development of the publication "Capitalizing findings and lessons learnt from the work on equitable access to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health" including a section on Financing: UNECE to be finalized by November 2019.</p> <p>(b) Coordinate the development of the publication "Sustainable financing of small-scale water supplies and sanitation": WHO/Europe to be finalized by November 2019.</p> <p>(c) Support the implementation of the Equitable Access Action plan in Armenia (on-going), the adoption of local Equitable Access Action plans in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (on-going) and in Serbia (to start in July 2018 and to be completed by January 2019)</p>	<p>Transboundary Cooperation Section</p> <p>Chantal Demilecamps Environmental Affairs Officer</p>	<p>(a) First draft of the publication was discussed at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation (June 2018). Further development on-going, to be finalized by November 2019, UNECE</p> <p>(b) On going: to be finalized by November 2019, WHO/Europe.</p> <p>(c) Armenia: support to the implementation and monitoring of progress under the National Policy Dialogue process financed by EUWI+. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Serbia, action plans not yet formally adopted. Action plan in Serbia to be finalized by February 2019, UNECE.</p>