Equitable access to water and sanitation

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Oslo, 25-27 November 2013
Approaching the equitable access challenge
Document on good practices and self-evaluation tool
to ensure an equitable access to water and sanitation
in the pan-European region as a first milestone
Access to water and sanitation in the paneuropean region is unequal

1 We still have an access problem – 110 million Europeans do not have access

2 Large in-country differences are not random – the access problem affect mostly the poor and rural populations

3 Richer countries also have an equitable access problem

WHO-UNICEF, 2010
There are international obligations to end inequities in access

The General Assembly,

[...]

Acknowledging the importance of equitable access to safe and clean drinking water

[...]

Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights

UN General Assembly resolution 64/292

Equitable access to water, adequate in terms of both quantity and quality should be provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion

Protocol on Water and Health, Article 5 (I)
Inequities in access need to be fought in at least 3 fronts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Inequities in access to water and sanitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geographical disparities: water resources, WSS infrastructure</td>
<td>Certain areas of a country (rural areas, poor urban neighborhoods) have no physical access or have access of lower quality than other areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social disparities: vulnerable and marginalised groups</td>
<td>Within areas with good access, certain groups do not have access because they don’t have private facilities, the public and institutional facilities they rely on are not adequate, or suffer unintended or intended discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic disparities: affordability issues</td>
<td>Within areas with good access, the water and sanitation bill represents too large a share of disposable income for some households</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategy

- Sharing of experience and lessons learned at national or local levels

- Detailed analysis of the current situation and knowledge in order to point out the best practices

- Meeting group of experts - with competence in different areas: legal, economic, financial and social issues - strongly involved in the elaboration of good practices document

- Drafting Group of Experts (DGE) – “No one left behind”
  Representatives of MS: Belgium, Finland, France, Hungary, Macedonia, Netherlands, Portugal
  NGOs: WHO CEHAPE, WaterLex, WECF, MAMA-86, BSCIF, SEE-SWE
  International organizations: INBO, OHCHR, UNECE, UNICEF, WHO, French Water Academy, GWP-CEE

- Project Team: France, UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe
Document on good practices / Structure

Introduction
Ch 1. Challenges of ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation
Ch 2. International commitments to achieve equitable access
Ch 3. Steering water governance frameworks to deliver equitable access
Ch 4. Reducing geographical disparities
Ch 5. Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
Ch 6. Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all
Specific indicators to be defined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban-rural gaps</th>
<th>e.g. % connections to communal water systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water resources availability</td>
<td>e.g. % of inhabitants without access to water catchments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable groups</td>
<td>e.g. % of schools providing access to water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordability</td>
<td>e.g. % of unpaid water bills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Presentation at 6th World Water Forum in Marseille

- Dissemination within political process in particular at the Parliamentarian Level

- To provide resources on key legislative and policy issues related to water (sharing knowledge and experiences)

- Promotion of the tool by a flyer, an executive summary, and translation of the document in several languages (French, English, Russian)
The development of a self-evaluation tool

The structure of a score-card chosen by the expert group

France welcomed the new expert group and supported this project

A final meeting was held in Paris, 15-16 May 2013 at the French ministry of Health, with about 35 participants:

- Parties to the Protocol
- International organizations: UNECE, WHO, OHCHR, UN-Habitat
- NGOs

In order to share the results of the testing of the score card in 3 pilot countries: France, Portugal, Ukraine
The goals of the score-card

To present an analytical tool…

… that can be used by governments (and other stakeholders) in
- establishing a baseline
- tracking progress
- prompting discussions on further actions needed to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation…

… in order to support the implementation of policies and practices to uphold the human rights to water and sanitation under the principle of “progressive realization”.

The Equitable Access Score-card

supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation
1. Introduction
2. Equitable access to water and sanitation

3. How to use the scorecard
   - Strategic guidance – Organizing a self-assessment process and communicating the results
   - Practical guidance – Notes for filling the scorecard
   - Glossary of key terms

4. Country experiences
5. The Scorecard
What is the score-card

• A questionnaire to fulfill
• A description of country or region profile
• An item for
  - section 1: Steering governance frameworks to deliver equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation
  
  *each dimension of equitable access:*
  
  - section 2: Reducing geographical disparities
  - section 3: Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
  - section 4: Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all
What is the score-card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area 2.2 Public policies to reduce price disparities between geographical areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rationale.</strong> Some geographical areas face higher prices than others. This may be due to higher levels of service, higher cost of service provision (e.g. due to expensive access to clean water sources, or to low density of population), less efficient provision of services (e.g. poor maintenance leading to higher cost, or too many staff per connection), or uneven distribution of public subsidies. Public policies can play a major role in reducing price disparities between geographical areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.2.1 There are mechanisms in place to track prices as well as cost of provision of water and sanitation services</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Score justification** (please provide brief explanation and/or examples that justify the answer)
**Means of verification used:** (e.g. official documents, multi-stakeholder consultation, expert opinion)
**Reliability of the response:** (i.e. high, medium, or low-level of confidence) |
| **2.2.2 Price benchmarking tools (such as affordability indicators or tariff reference values) have been introduced** |
| **Score justification** (please provide brief explanation and/or examples that justify the answer)
**Means of verification used:** (e.g. official documents, multi-stakeholder consultation, expert opinion)
**Reliability of the response:** (i.e. high, medium, or low-level of confidence) |
Achieving a self-assessment exercise

1. Identify the objectives of the self-assessment exercise
2. Take the necessary time, but not more
3. Put together a “balanced” self-assessment team
4. Ensure continuous multi-stakeholder involvement
5. Plan the workshops carefully
6. Use the results of the scorecard for strategic evaluation and priority setting
7. Present the results in attractive formats - summary sheet, situational analysis, policy summary
8. Use the results to track your progress
Results of the self-assessment exercise in Paris which join parallel exercises in Portugal and Ukraine

Usefull tool for
1. a consensual assessment
2. an objective debate
3. a high accuracy on current situation

- In order to discuss between stakeholders oriented on the need to produce reliable data
- In order to think« out of the box » by giving the floor to a large range of stakeholders (institutional or not)

Challenging exercise which allows:
- a broader understanding of the issues to equitable access
- an assessment of the existence of measures, their lacks and efficiency
- a focus on main problems for policy makers
Next steps in France

- Self assessment with the regional health authority (ARS) in the seven sub-regions around Paris (“départements de l’Île-de-France”, 20% of the French population) and in one ultra-marine region (La Réunion/Mayotte, Indian Ocean)

- Involvement of the French Healthy cities network

- Willing to include in the third national Plan on environment and health an issue on Equitable access to water and sanitation
Next steps - Work under the Protocol

- Supporting the use and implementation of the good practices document by furthering action on the ground:
  - Self evaluation tools
  - Guidance for setting targets with an equitable access lens
  - Twinning projects

- Promotion and advocacy of equitable access:
  - Promotion activities (national & international events)

- Regional workshops
Thanks to each Party for their contribution
Thanks to Portugal and Ukraine for their involvement in self-evaluation
Thanks to UNECE and WHO/Europe