

Programme area 2.3

Drinking -water quality surveillance

Lead Parties: Norway, Belarus
Supported by WHO secretariat

Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties
Geneva, 14-16 November 2016



Protocol on Water and Health



Context of work: why risk-based surveillance?

- * Drinking-water quality surveillance is essential **public health function**
- * **Water-related illnesses and outbreaks** are still occurring in the majority of countries in the Region
- * Too much focus on **end-product testing** - may **miss critical events**
- * **“Over-engineered”** list of monitoring parameters
 - * lack of substantial added value in public health protection
 - * not resource-effective
- * Need for improved **enforcement**, particularly in remote settings owing to the large number of small supplies

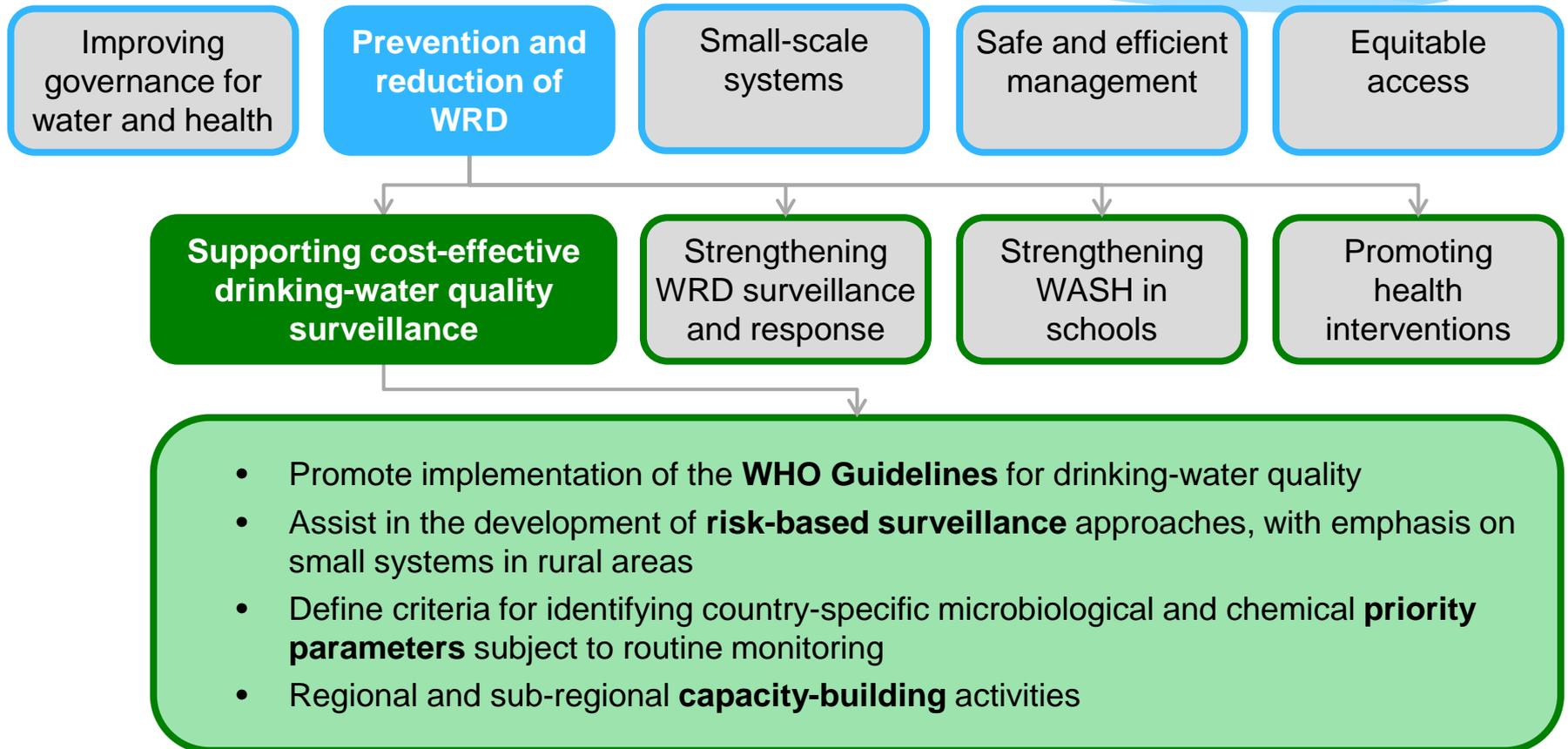
Protocol provisions on water quality

- * Access to adequate supply of wholesome **drinking-water** for everyone (Article 4)
- * Parties shall establish and maintain a **legal and institutional framework for monitoring and enforcing standards for the quality of drinking water** (Article 6)
- * Parties shall (...) promote (...) operation of **effective networks to monitor and assess the provision and quality of water-related services**, and development of integrated information systems (Article 14)

Strengthening risk-based approaches to drinking water quality surveillance

- * **Priority thematic area** under the Protocol 's 2014-2016 programme of work;
- * Main goal: to assist Member States in implementing **risk-based approaches** in drinking-water quality surveillance
- * The work is **co-lead** by Norway and Belarus and supported by WHO secretariat.

The Oslo 2014-2016 programme of work



1. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- * **Defined the scope of work** through lead Parties planning meetings (Bonn, 2014 and 2015)
- * **Regional workshop** “Meeting on effective approaches to drinking-water quality surveillance” (Oslo, 6-7 May 2015)
- * An **outline of a guidance document** on risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality prepared and presented in WGWH (Geneva, 29th and 30th June 2016)

2. Major milestones for 2014-2016

The Oslo meeting 2015



Protocol on Water and Health

Effective approaches to drinking-water quality surveillance

Meeting report
6-7 May 2015
Oslo, Norway



- * Introduced and discussed principles and elements of risk-based approach to drinking-water quality surveillance
- * Reached consensus on the main building blocks of RBS
- * Reviewed countries experiences and challenges in surveillance
- * Identified needs to strengthen RBS

4. Major milestones for 2014-2016 After the Oslo meeting



- * Prepared **annotated outline: Guidance document on RBS of drinking-water quality (MOP information paper)**
 - the added value of risk-based approaches;
 - the building blocks of risk-based surveillance;
 - case study examples from regulation and practice; and
 - mapping of existing resources.

5. Major milestone: Outline to guidance document

- * Annotated outline of Guidance document updated based on feedback from the 9th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, June 2016)

Short summary:

- **target audience:** regulators and policy makers;
- **short and concise:** provide arguments for engaging in risk-based approach in drinking water quality surveillance;
- **describe** core building blocks of risk-based approaches and good practice examples of risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality;
- **provide an overview** of existing resources to implement risk-based drinking water quality surveillance.

6. Lessons learnt for future work

- * There is **broad recognition** among the Member States of the value of and need for **risk-based approaches** in standard-setting and surveillance (e.g. recent changes in EU Drinking Water Directive);
- * Introduction of Water Safety Plans (WSPs) is an essential tool to implement risk-based approaches in surveillance systems;
- * Need for building capacity at national and local levels

7. Suggested future work for 2017-2019

- * Supporting risk-based approaches will continue in the next programme of work under the Protocol (2017-2019) focusing on:
 - * **Finalize** the development of the **guidance document** on risk-based surveillance of drinking water quality
 - * Expert group meeting (Minsk, February 2017)
 - * Further consultations

7. Suggested future work for 2017-2019

- * Capacity building and support Parties and other States in long-term uptake of risk-based surveillance approaches in regulations and practice
 - * **Assess support needs** based on review of the country briefs (to Oslo meeting) e.g., for setting responsibilities, coordination, technical guidance, trainings, etc.;
 - * Undertake national and sub-regional **advocacy and capacity building** activities on risk-based surveillance