



# Ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation



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Protocol on Water and Health



# What do we mean by Equitable access to water and sanitation services?



Protocol on Water and Health

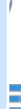






# Inequities to be fought on 3 fronts

Dimension	Inequities in access to water and sanitation
<b>Geographical disparities:</b> water resources, WSS infrastructure	Certain areas of a country (rural areas, poor urban neighborhoods) have no physical access or have access of lower quality than other areas
<b>Social disparities:</b> vulnerable and marginalised groups	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
<b>Economic disparities:</b> affordability issues	Within areas with good access, the water and sanitation bill represents too large a share of disposable income for some households





# Access barriers for vulnerable and marginalized group

Examples of vulnerable and marginalised groups	Examples of barriers for enjoying access
Persons with disabilities, persons with serious and chronic illnesses	Standard (private and public) water and sanitation facilities may not be adequate to their special physical needs
School children, hospitalized patients, detainees, refugees	Institutions on which they rely (schools, hospitals, prisons, refugee camps) may not have adequate water and sanitation facilities
Homeless people, nomadic and travelling communities	Public facilities (fountains, showers, toilets) on which they rely may not be available
Illegal settlers, illegal immigrants	Water and sanitation service providers may not serve undocumented persons or housing facilities located in untenured land
Indigenous people, persons belonging to ethnic or other minorities	Water providers and social services agencies may incur in unintended or intended discriminatory practices (service provision, allocation of aid, participation)



# Tools and guidance to support the achievement of equitable access to water and sanitation



Setting the framework

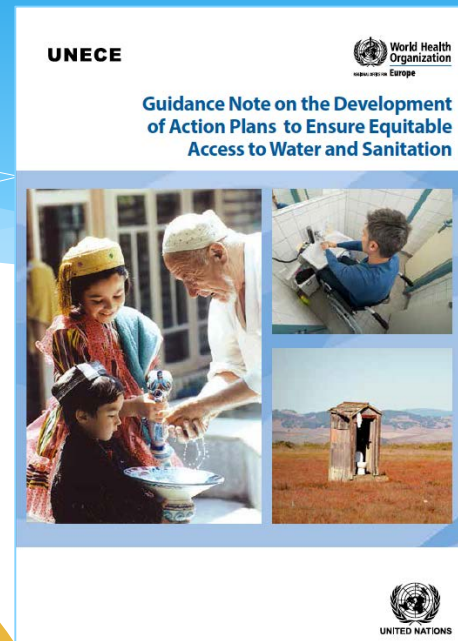
Good practices

Assessment tool

Equitable Access Action Plan

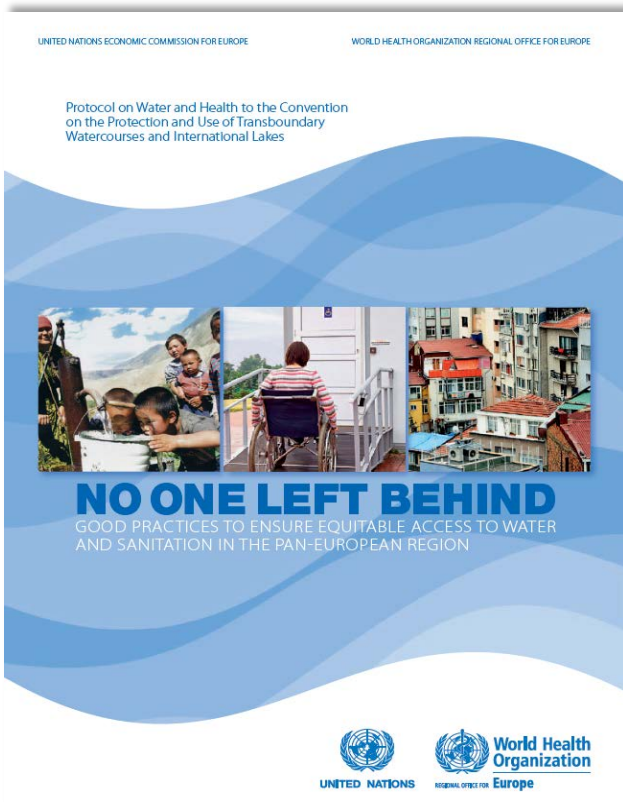
Assessing the baseline situation

Defining action



# No One Left Behind

- \* Identifies key **challenges** in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation
- \* Analyzes **national governance frameworks** and options for them to address equitable access
- \* Presents concrete **good practices** and lessons learnt on policy options and measures to address inequities




# Reducing geographical disparities

Policy options	Example of good practice
Closing price gaps	<p><i>Ensuring access to water in remote rural areas in Finland</i></p>  <p>Long term programme of public subsidies for water sector: investment targeted to smaller and remote communities, no subsidies for operation and maintenance + extensive groundwater research</p>
Closing access gaps	



# Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups

Policy options	Example of good practice
Cross- cutting policy options to ensure non-discrimination	<p><i>Providing water and sanitation for persons without fixed dwellings in Flanders (Belgium)</i></p>  <p>Belgium's Flanders region has established four transit areas for travelling communities with water and sanitation facilities - each one can receive 10-25 families for a period of a few days</p>
Targeted policy options	

# Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all

Policy options	Example of good practice
Tariff measures	<i>Voluntary introduction of social tariffs in Poland</i>
Targeted policy options	 <p>The Polish operator AQUA SA introduced a reduced tariff for low-income households (at a cost of 1% of utility revenue) based on the eligibility criteria used by the municipal social services</p>

# But also a need to steer governance frameworks to ensure equitable access

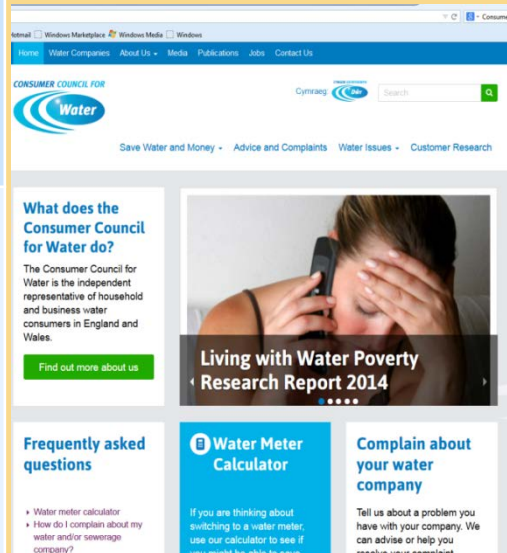
## Policy options

Good water governance and management

“Equitable access lens” to speed up progress

## Example of good practice

*Empowering consumers in the UK: Consumer Council for Water in England and Wales*



The Consumer Council for England and Wales uses consumer research and direct customer feedback to inform water policy making and implementation – such as on affordability issues

# The Equitable Access Score-card



## The Equitable Access Score-card

supporting policy processes  
to achieve the human right to water  
and sanitation



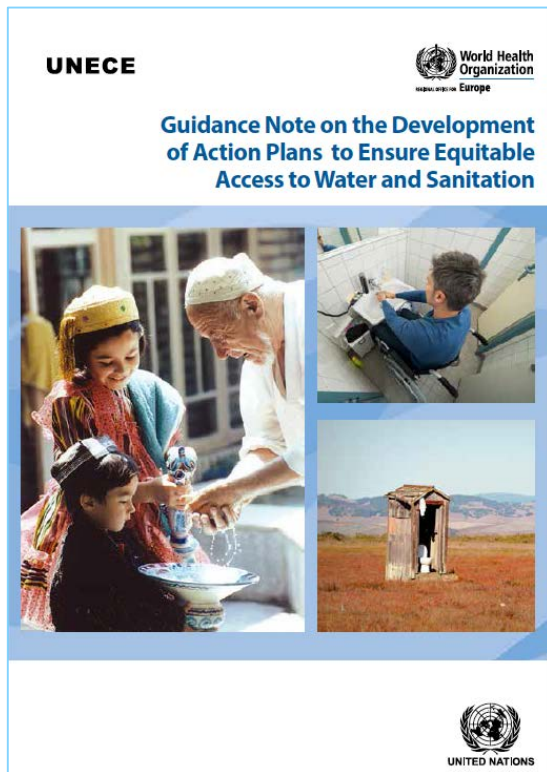
Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on  
the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses  
and International Lakes



- \* A self-evaluation **analytical tool**...
- \* ... that can be used by governments (and other stakeholders) in **establishing a baseline, tracking progress, and 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 Guidance Note on Equitable Access Action Plans



- \* .. helps countries in translating the priorities identified through the self-assessment into actions
- \* ... describes the content of Action Plans and their process of development