

# Developing and implementing an Equitable Access Action Plan Experience in Macedonia Mihail Kochubovski/Natasha Dokovska

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# Rationale for developing an equitable access action plan

- \* After assessment of Score –card for equitable access to water and sanitation we are more aware that *inequities* still remain in Macedonia, both social and geographical (83% of access to improved sanitation in rural areas against 99% in urban area, JMP report, 2015).
- ❖ *Lack of finance* was identified as one of big problem
- ❖ *Missing WWTP* (except in municipality Kumanovo)
- ❖ *Lack of MHM in schools* (except in one private school in Veles)
- ❖ *Lack of access to drinking water and sanitation* for homeless
- ❖ *Bacteriologically improper* drinking water in rural areas (20-40%)
- ❖ *No access to toilets in* in religious facilities

# Process: developing an Equitable Access Action Plan

- \* Lead agency(ies): **Journalists for Human Rights**
- \* Contributing agencies and stakeholders: **Institute of Public Health**
- \* Scale of the Action Plan: (regional, 3 communities – Skopje, Veles and Kumanovo  
**-Involvement of more than half of population in Macedonia)**
- \* Timeframe (link with other policy process?)

Activity	Date

The project was scheduled to last for 5 months, from November 1, 2016 to April 31, 2017. But due to the political crisis in Macedonia, extraordinary parliamentary elections and pending local elections, scheduled for October 15, we had not finished project ...We postponed to

# Main features of the Equitable Access Action Plan

- \* Priority areas of actions

- a) *Steering governance frameworks to deliver equitable access*
- b) *Reducing geographical disparities*
- c) *Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups*
- d) *Keeping water and sanitation affordable*

- \* Priority measures and related costs

- a) *Capacity building*
- b) *Policy reforms*
- c) *Targeted investments*
- d) *Legal and institutional reforms*
- e) *Communications efforts...*

# Main features of the Equitable Access Action Plan

## Implementation arrangements, incl. timeline

- \* The project was scheduled to last for 5 months, from November 1, 2016 to April 31, 2017. But due to the political crisis in Macedonia, extraordinary parliamentary elections and pending local elections, scheduled for October 15, we still do not have the finalized project ...  
Previous activities carried out so far include:
- \* **Establishing of three** local teams who will work on preparation of LAP
- \* **Presenting the results of the self-assessment** to the respective local authorities and stakeholders, discussing possible improvements, and reaching consensus on the priorities for action;
- \* **Developing draft local equitable access action plans**
- \* **Presenting the draft local action plan to** local authorities and stakeholders for discussion and endorsement.
- \* **Offer** the LAP to 3 targeted communities
- \* **Establishing** steering committees
- \* Holding **NATIONAL CONFERENCE** for LAP

# Lessons learnt from the process

	Process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ cooperation</li><li>❖ mood for change</li><li>❖ <b>desire to improve</b> the situation regarding access to water and sanitation</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <i>political crisis</i></li><li>❖ <i>the dysfunction of the institutions</i></li><li>❖ <i>inefficiency of the municipalities in the pre-election period, but also non capacity to work on LAP</i></li></ul>

# Adoption, communication and next steps

## \* Timeframe

But in order not to have “empty steps” from the implementation of the project, and within the current political climate in the country, we have made several activities in the direction of popularizing LAP ...

First, we organized a **press conference** at which we presented the LAP prepared by the expert teams, we detected the priorities for each of the targeted municipalities and **ask the media to push this priority as one of winning combination for them**

Secondly, in the preparation of the election campaign, **we mobilized the local non-governmental organizations** and we lobby to ask from future candidates for mayors to put in their program our priorities ... NGOs are constantly demanding from future candidates

Third – we worked with candidates nominated for mayor, after they were proposed as candidate we have **meet each candidate** and we asked them **to confirm that if they come to power they will elect the proposed LAP ...**

# Progress in implementation of the Action Plan

- \* Timeframe
- \* We still need to:
  - **Acceptance of LAP** by targeted municipalities and start implementation of LAP, even that in communities' of Veles and Kumanovo already start with **implementation** of LAP's. In Skopje **2 old public toilet** are renovated and put in use.
  - On National Level, the ministries of social affairs and health, as well Institute of Public Health, start to **negotiate** about **MHM** (at least one toilet in school and all public institutions to be adapted for MHM, the taxes for hygiene pad to be decreased from 18 to 5 % and to open the market for sealing different and cheaper tools for MMH)
  - In two new municipalities – Kavadarci and Krusevo process has just started