

# The Equitable Access Score-card

## A tool to assess the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation



# Why should we assess the situation of equitable access? – global, regional, national commitments

- **The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (2010)**

Everyone, without discrimination, is entitled to:

- sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable **water** for personal and domestic use.
- have physical and affordable access to **sanitation**, in all spheres of life, which is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable, which provides privacy and dignity.



# Why should we assess the situation of equitable access? – global, regional, national commitments

- **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**SDG6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking **water** for all
- Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable **sanitation** and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations



# Why should we assess the situation of equitable access? – global, regional, national commitments



- **The Protocol on Water and Health: a regional instrument to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation**

Key objectives:

- (a) Access to drinking water for everyone
- (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone



A specific **focus on *equitable access***:

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

**An implementation strategy:** Set targets & target dates, develop plan for achieving targets, public participation, monitoring and reporting



# Why should we assess the situation of equitable access? – global, regional, national commitments

- **Parma declaration (5th ministerial conference on environment and health – March 2010)**

“Ensuring public health by improving access to safe water and sanitation” (focus on access for children in all settings)

- **Ostrava declaration (6th ministerial conference on environment and health - June 2017)**

“Ensuring universal, equitable and sustainable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all in all settings”

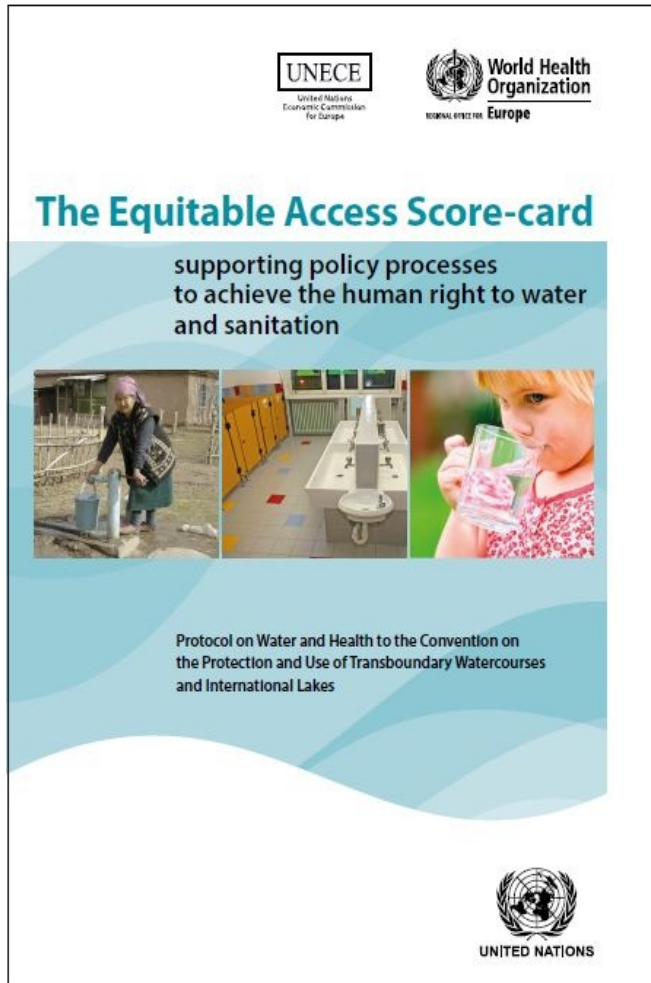
→ Protocol on Water and Health recognized as key instrument in the Region to translate and operationalize progressive implementation of WASH-related commitments



*Better Health. Better Environment. Sustainable Choices.*



# The Equitable Access Score-card: a self assessment tool



- 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 Equitable Access Score-card: assessing main types of inequities

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

# The Equitable Access Score-card: vulnerable and marginalized groups considered

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)



# Structure of the Equitable Access Score-card

SECTION	AREA OF ACTION
Steering governance frameworks to deliver equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation	1.1 Strategic framework for achieving equitable access
	1.2 Sector financial policies
	1.3 Rights and duties of users and right-holders
Reducing geographical disparities	2.1 Public policies to reduce access disparities between geographical areas
	2.2 Public policies to reduce price disparities between geographical areas
	2.3 Geographical allocation of external support
Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all	4.1 Public policies to ensure affordability
	4.2 Tariff measures
	4.3 Social protection measures

# Structure of the Equitable Access Score-card

SECTION	AREA OF ACTION
Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups	3.1 Public policies to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups
	3.2 Persons with special physical needs
	3.3 Users of health facilities
	3.4 Users of educational facilities
	3.5 Users of retirement homes
	3.6 Prisoners
	3.7 Refugees living in refugee camps and centres
	3.8 Homeless people
	3.9 Travellers and nomadic communities
	3.10 Persons living in housing without water and sanitation
	3.11 Persons without access to safe drinking water and sanitation in their workplaces

# Structure of the Equitable Access Score-card

AREA 3.9 TRAVELLERS AND NOMADIC COMMUNITIES				
<p><b>Rationale.</b> A number of people lack access to water and sanitation services not because their locality is not served or because they cannot afford them, but because they have no fixed dwelling to be connected to the water and sanitation networks. They include travellers and nomadic communities. Travellers and nomadic communities have to rely on public facilities. (The challenge of settlements of ethnic minorities is considered under area 3.10).</p>				
	YES	TO A LARGE EXTENT	TO A LIMITED EXTENT	NO
<b>3.9.1</b> There is data on levels of access to safe drinking water and sanitation by travellers and nomadic communities				
<p><b>Score justification:</b> (explain briefly and/or give examples that justify the answer)</p> <p><b>Means of verification used:</b> (e.g. official documents, multi-stakeholder consultation, expert opinion)</p> <p><b>Reliability of the response:</b> (high, medium, or low)</p>				
<b>3.9.2</b> There is a public policy to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation by travellers and nomadic communities				
<b>3.9.3</b> There is specific public funding to support access to water and sanitation by travellers and nomadic communities				
<p><b>Please estimate the average reliability of the responses for this area</b> (please mark one option)</p> <p>High ..... Medium ..... Low .....</p>				

# Equitable Access Score-card: overview of results

SECTION	AREA OF ACTION	SCORE	RELIABILITY
Steering governance frameworks to deliver equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation	1.1 Strategic framework for achieving equitable access		
	1.2 Sector financial policies		
	1.3 Rights and duties of users and right-holders		
Reducing geographical disparities	2.1 Public policies to reduce access disparities between geographical areas		
	2.2 Public policies to reduce price disparities between geographical areas		
	2.3 Geographical allocation of external support		
Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups	3.1 Public policies to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups		
	3.2 Persons with special physical needs		
	3.3 Users of health facilities		
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Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all	4.1 Public policies to ensure affordability		
	4.2 Tariff measures		
	4.3 Social protection measures		

# Countries experiences in assessing equitable access

Date	Countries and assessment scale	Development of an action plan or specific measures
2014	<b>Portugal</b> <i>National</i>	Specific measures on social tariffs
2014	<b>Ukraine</b> <i>National + city</i>	Supported fund raising
2014	<b>France</b> <i>Paris urban area</i>	Specific measures identified
2014	<b>Republic of Moldova</b> <i>National</i>	Specific target under the Protocol
2015	<b>Azerbaijan</b> <i>National</i>	Ongoing assessment
2016	<b>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <i>District Level</i>	Dvpt of actions plans
2016	<b>Spain</b> <i>Municipal</i>	
2016	<b>Hungary</b> <i>National</i>	Specific measures identified
2016	<b>Armenia</b> <i>National</i>	Dvpt of an action plan 2018-2020
2017	<b>Serbia</b> <i>Regional</i>	Specific target under the Protocol, ongoing
2018	<b>Bulgaria</b> <i>Regional</i>	

# Equitable access self assessment: process and lessons learnt

- Voluntary self-assessment: process adaptable to country needs and specificities
- Not to compare countries/regions/cities but to understand country / region specific context and help improve equitable access to W&S
- Self-assessment process supports coordination and collaboration between stakeholders
- Outcomes provide solid basis for objective debate on improvements needed to address identified equity gaps
- Assessment findings can serve as a basis for attracting funding for achieving access to equitable W&S



*Thank you for your attention !*

[https://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh\\_work/equitable\\_access.html](https://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_work/equitable_access.html)

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