



Action funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

# European Union Water Initiative *plus* for Eastern Partnership



## Protocol on Water and Health as a tool to implement Sustainable Development Goals at the national level

Consultation meeting/workshop  
Baku, 5 July 2018

UNECE



# Why a treaty to manage water resources and prevent water-related diseases?



In the WHO European Region diarrhoeal diseases cause an estimated **14 deaths per day** due to inadequate



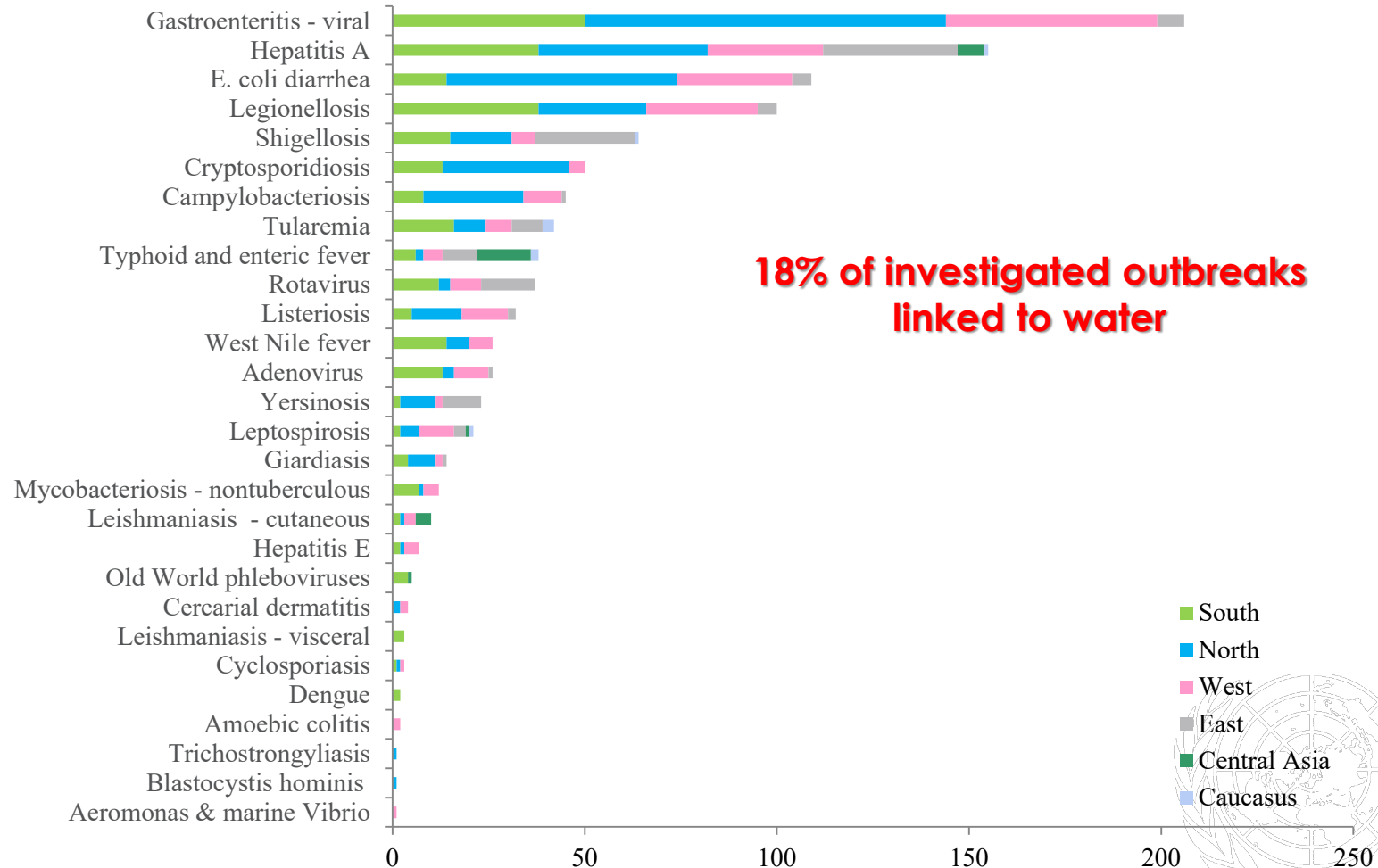
**WaSH** WATER SANITATION HYGIENE

Diarrhoeal diseases can be prevented through:

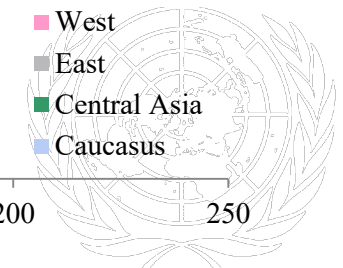
- safely managed drinking-water
- adequate sanitation and safely managed wastewater disposal
- good handwashing practices.



<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation>  
04/2016

In the pan-European region:  
**14 people die every day** of diarrheal disease due to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene (\*WHO, 2016)



# In the pan-European region ...

(WHO, 2017)

- **21 million** do not use basic drinking-water services
- **57 million** do not enjoy piped water at premises
- **4.7 million** use surface water
- **36 million** lack access to basic sanitation services
- **328 000** practice open defecation
- **30% and 60%** of urban wastewater, in high- and upper-middle income countries released to the environment without treatment
- **3/4** without basic drinking-water services live in rural areas
- **20%** of rural dwellers live in homes without access to basic drinking water, as opposed to **3%** of urban residents in the Caucasus and Central Asia
- **Emerging threats:** *Legionella*, micropollutants, antimicrobial resistance



# Goal 6 Synthesis report: key messages

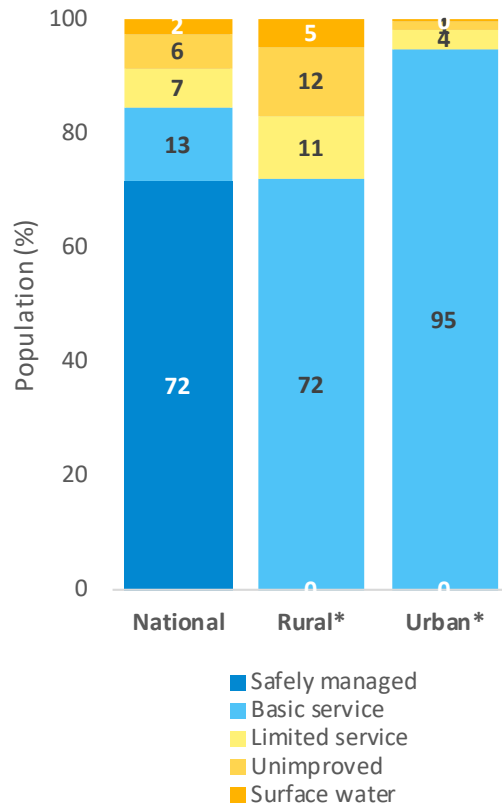


- **Achieving SDG 6 is essential for progress on all other SDGs and vice versa.** Sustainable management of water and sanitation underpins wider efforts to end poverty, advance sustainable development and sustain peace and stability.
- **The time to act on SDG 6 is now.** The world is not on track to achieve the global SDG 6 targets by 2030 at the current rate of progress.
- **Global SDG 6 targets must be localized and adapted to the country context.** National governments must decide how to incorporate SDG 6 targets into national planning processes, policies and strategies, and set their own targets, taking into account local circumstances.
- **Effective water resources management needs more and better data.** Data underpin good water governance. Less than half of Member States have comparable data available on progress made towards SDG 6 targets.
- **Extending access to safe drinking water presents a huge challenge.** Achieving universal access to safe and affordable drinking water means providing basic water services to 844 million people and improving service quality to 2.1 billion people who lack safely managed drinking water services.
- **Billions of people still need access to basic toilet and handwashing facilities.** Over 2.3 billion people lack basic sanitation services, 892 million still practice open defecation and 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services. These will not be eradicated by 2030 with current trends. Only 27 per cent of the population in LDCs has access to soap and water for handwashing on premises.
- **Improving water quality can increase water availability.** Worsening water pollution must be tackled at source and treated to protect public health and the environment and to increase water availability.
- **Implementing IWRM is an important comprehensive step towards achieving SDG 6.** Integration across the water and water-using sectors is essential for ensuring that limited water resources are shared effectively among many competing demands.

# Baseline SDG 6.1-6.2 data for Azerbaijan

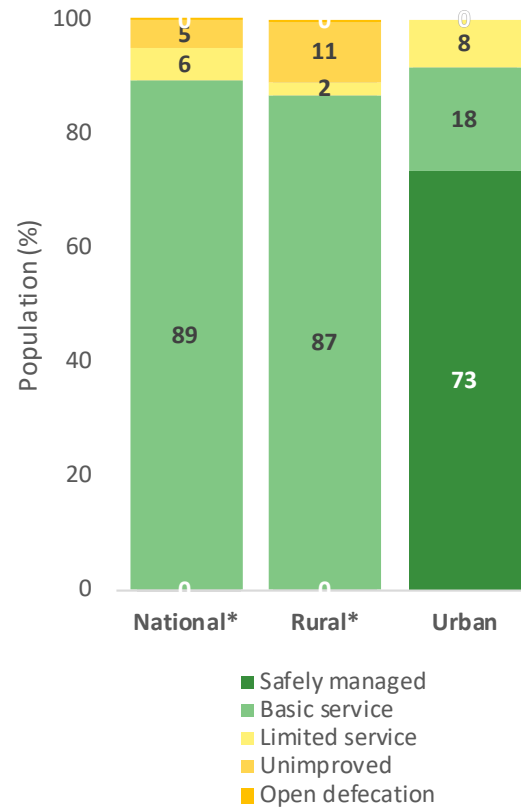


## Drinking water



\*No safely managed estimate available

## Sanitation



\*No safely managed estimate available

# The Protocol on Water and Health



World's first legal treaty designed to reduce water-related deaths and diseases through improved water management

It is up to the countries to translate its legal provisions into the reality of greater access to safe water and improved sanitation

26 countries are Parties to the Protocol

UNECE and WHO/Europe provide joint secretariat services

# Protocol covers the entire water cycle



**COASTAL WATERS**  
used for recreation  
and aquaculture



**FRESHWATER**  
Surface and  
ground waters

**ENCLOSED WATERS**  
available for bathing

**DRINKING-WATER  
SUPPLY CHAIN**  
abstraction,  
transport, treatment  
and supply

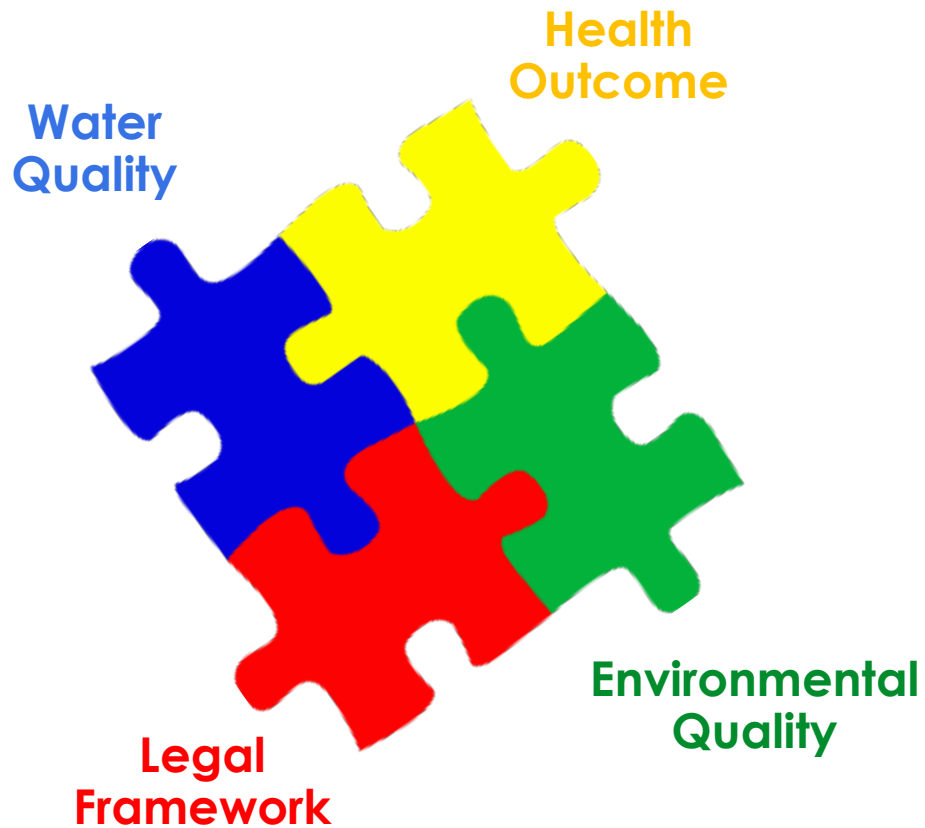


**WASTEWATER**  
collection,  
transport,  
treatment,  
discharge, reuse



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# The Protocol's goal is achieved through four entwined outcomes



## Environmental Management

Effective protection of water related ecosystems and sustainable use of water resources

Provision of adequate supplies of wholesome drinking water

## Health Outcomes

Prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases

Detection, contingency planning and response to outbreaks



# Setting targets and reporting



## Process and governance

- Intersectoral coordination mechanisms
- Baseline analysis
- Targets and indicators
- Official adoption at highest possible level
- Implementation action plans
- Regular revision



## Review and report

- Collect and evaluate data on common indicators, national targets and Protocol priority areas
- Publish results at national level (public involvement)
- Review progress
- Submit summary report to the Meeting of the Parties every 3 years

# Linkages to 2030 Agenda and the SDGs



**17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**  
 17.14. Enhanced policy coherence.  
 17.16-17. Multi-stakeholder partnerships.  
 17.18. Capacity to improve data, monitoring and accountability for water and health.

**16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**  
 16.6. Strengthening national and local institutions.  
 16.7. Improved public participation.

**13. CLIMATE ACTION**  
 13.1. Improved resilience of water and sanitation systems to climate change.

**11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**  
 11.5. Reduction of deaths and direct economic losses caused by water-related disasters.

**10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES**  
 10.2. Promotion of social, economic and political inclusion of all.  
 10.3. Equal opportunities for even the most vulnerable.

**8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
 8.8. Promotion of safe and secure working environments of all workers.

**1. NO POVERTY**  
 1.4. Access to basic services.

**3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
 3.2. Improved water and sanitation services in health care facilities.  
 3.3. Reduction of scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases.  
 3.9. Improvement of quality of water bodies.

**4. QUALITY EDUCATION**  
 4.a. Safe and effective learning environments for all.  
 4.7. Promote awareness on importance of water and health.

**5. GENDER EQUALITY**  
 5.1. Less discrimination in access to water, sanitation and hygiene.  
 5.5. Women's participation in decision-making process related to water and health.

**6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**  
 6.1-2. Universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.  
 6.3. Improved water quality by reducing pollution and increasing wastewater reuse.  
 6.4-5. Increased water-use efficiency to address water scarcity; implementation of IWRM through transboundary cooperation.  
 6.6. Healthy environments for people and ecosystems.



# 2030 Agenda and Protocol: coherence of approaches



- ✓ Address the **whole water cycle**
- ✓ Focus on **intersectorality**
- ✓ Focus on **inequalities**
- ✓ Define **ultimate objectives** and countries set its own **targets**
- ✓ Follow-up and review of **progress**



# What could it mean in practice?



## At the national and regional levels:

- ✓ Set **coherent targets** under the two frameworks
- ✓ Use the **same national platform** for the Protocol and relevant SDGs implementation
- ✓ **Exchange good practices and lessons learned** on the process and specific thematic issues
- ✓ **Build capacity** on the Protocol and 2030 Agenda together (*forthcoming publication: Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda: a practical guide for joint implementation*)

# Examples of interlinkages



**Protocol's target areas  
(art. 6. 2)**

**SDGs targets**

**(c) Area or population to be served by collective systems for the supply of drinking water or where the supply of drinking water should be improved**

**Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation**

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

**Goal 1: End poverty**

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services [...]

**Goal 4: Quality education**

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

**Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities**

11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

# Examples of interlinkages (2)



**Protocol's target areas  
(art. 6. 2)**

**SDGs targets**

**(f) The application of recognized good practice to the management of water supply and sanitation, including the protection of waters used as sources for drinking water**

**Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation**

6.3. By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

6.4. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

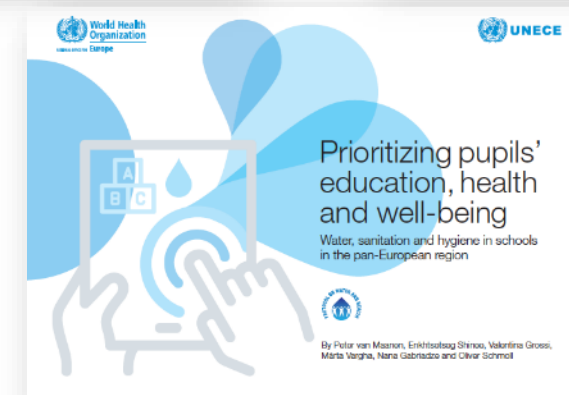
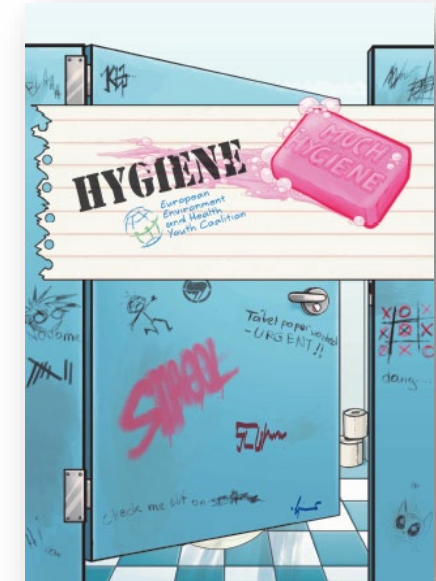
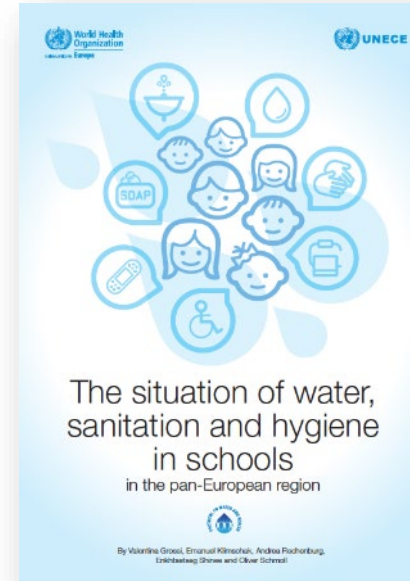
6.6. By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

# Promoting universal access for all: WASH in institutional settings



## Promote safe WASH in schools for better health and educational outcomes

- Protocol is spearheading WASH in schools in Europe
- First ever European landscape review
- Broad policy advocacy – regionally and nationally
- Regional meetings convening health and education sectors
- Cooperation with youth organizations
- Development of practical tools for public health authorities and school administrators
- Menstrual hygiene management (MHM)

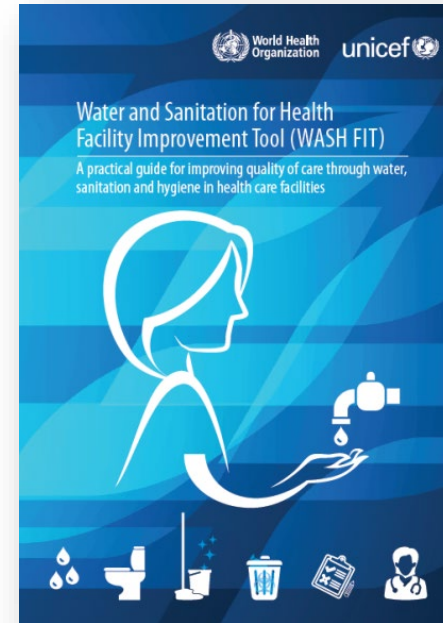


# Promoting universal access for all: WASH in institutional settings



## Promote WASH in health care facilities (HCF) as tracer intervention for quality health care and universal health coverage

- First ever systematic regional analysis of situation of HCF, including “policy deep dives”
- Regional exchange
- Support to national baseline analyses (in KAZ and SRB)
- Promotion of and support to uptake of WHO WASH FIT tool (in TJK)
- Uptake of WASH in national action planning on fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR)



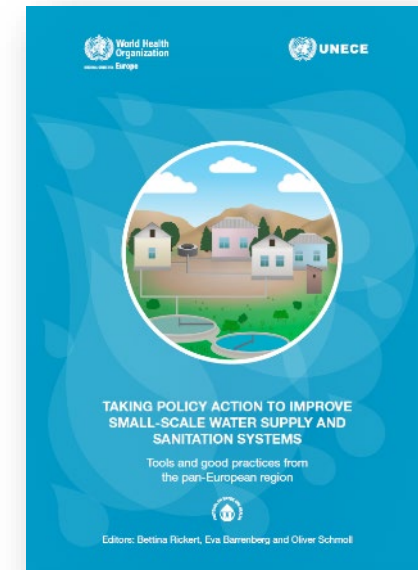


# Promoting universal access for all: Improving small-scale services in rural areas



## Tackle broad variety of challenges related to small-scale systems

- Improve the regional **evidence base**
- Support in-depth **national situation analysis** (in GEO, SRB)
- **Policy guidance** on tools and best practices, which support small-system sensitive solutions
- Implement **field demonstration** projects
- Broad national **capacity building** (in ALB, ARM, MKD, KGZ, SRB, UZB) and sub-regional events for regulators and surveillance agencies



# Safely managed water supply and sanitation services



**Article 6 (2a):** Quality of drinking-water

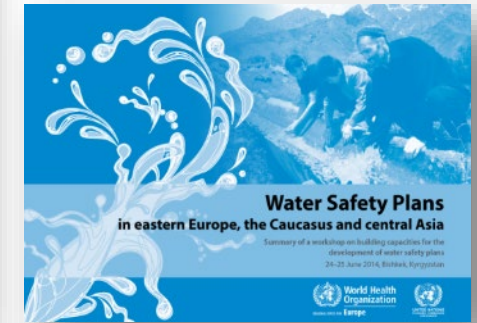
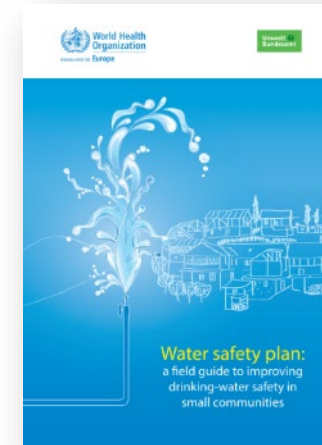
**Article 6 (2e):** Levels of performance

**Article 6 (2f):** Application of recognized good practices

**Article 6 (2i):** Disposal or reuse of sewage/wastewater

## Support adoption of WSPs and SSPs in policy and practice as public health benchmark

- Broad **advocacy** towards policy/regulatory uptake
- Support development of national **roadmaps for long-term implementation** (in ALB, SRB, TJK)
- Foster regional and national **exchange**
- Provide technical **capacity building and pilots** (in ALB, BIH, CRO, ITA, HUN, KGZ, MDA, SRB, TJK, UZB, UKR)



# Equitable access under the Protocol



The **Protocol** key objectives:

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

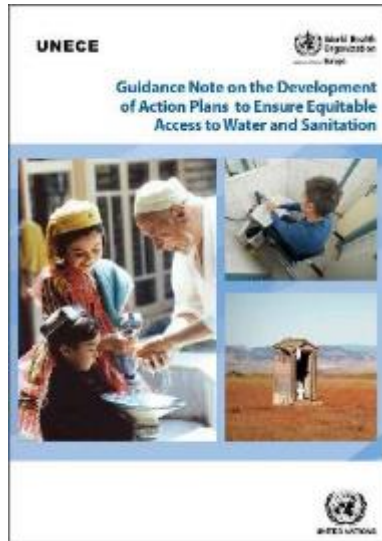


A **specific focus on equitable access:**

“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” (art. 5)



# Equitable access score-card and action plans



**Applied in**  
Armenia,  
Azerbaijan,  
Bulgaria, France,  
FYROM,  
Hungary,  
Portugal,  
Moldova, Serbia,  
Spain, Ukraine

**Applied in**  
Armenia,  
FYROM,  
Serbia

The **equitable access score-card** is a self-evaluation analytical tool...

- ... 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...
- ... **supports implementation of policies and practices** to uphold the human rights to water and sanitation under the principle of “progressive realization”

The guidance note on **development of action plans**

- **helps countries in translating priorities** identified through self-assessment into actions

# Examples of National targets in Azerbaijan



- Access to water and sanitation:
  - By 2030 Ensure 100% uninterrupted access in cities and 80% in rural areas
  - By 2030 Ensure 100% access to improved water sources in educational and medical facilities
  - By 2035 Ensure access to safely managed sanitation in 100% urban and 75% rural areas



# Thank you!

[www.unece.org/env/water.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water.html)

[www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation](http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation)