

Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health



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Equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health



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 under the Protocol on Water and Health



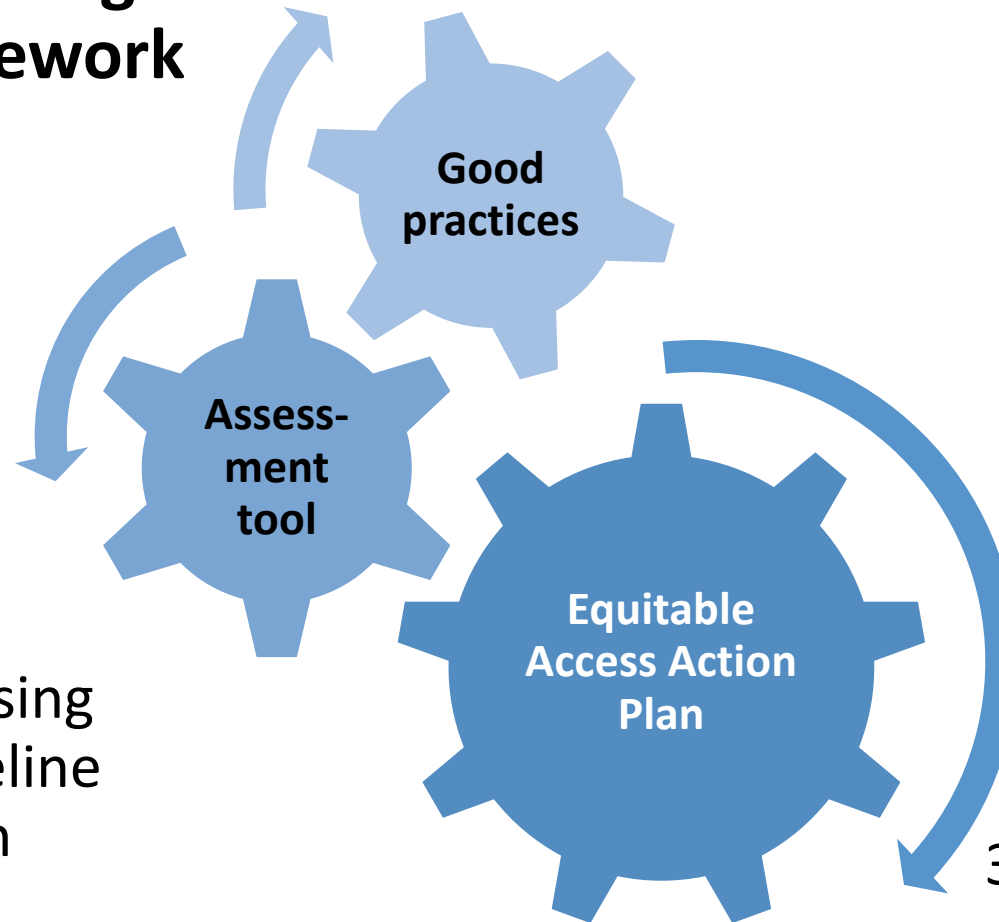
A practical **instrument to progressively implement** the human rights to water and sanitation and contribute to SDGs implementation and other regional commitments:

- > Safety and equity
- > Implementation strategy
- > Monitoring

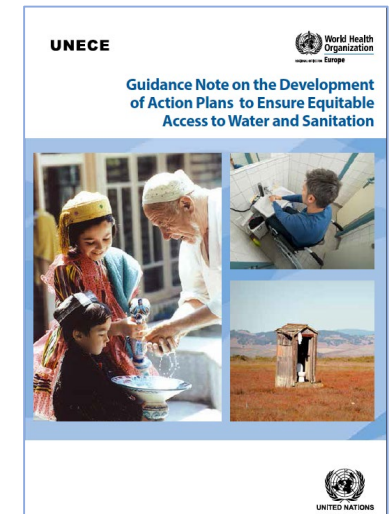
Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation



1. Setting the framework



2. Assessing the baseline situation



3. Defining action

Inequities to be fought on 3 fronts

Dimension	Inequities in access to water and sanitation
Geographical disparities: 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
Social disparities: 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
Economic disparities: 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

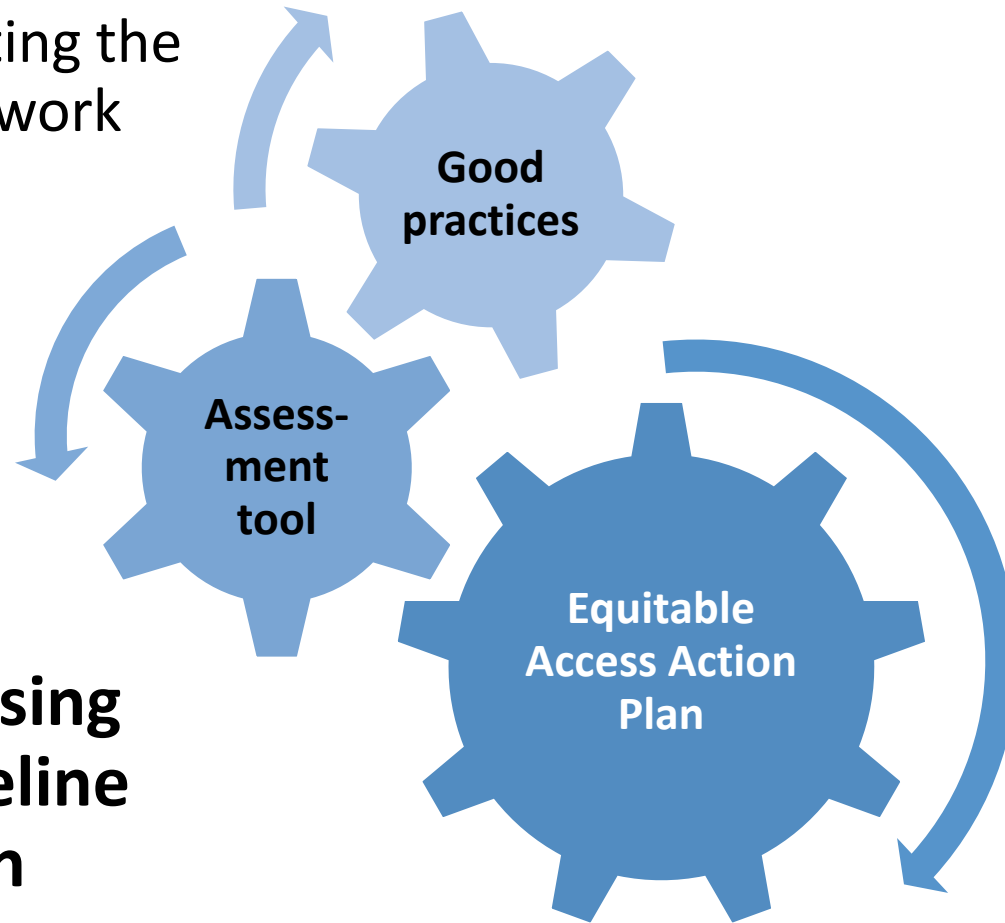
Examples of vulnerable and marginalised groups	Examples of barriers for enjoying access
Persons with disabilities, persons with serious and chronic illnesses	Standard (private and public) water and sanitation facilities may not be adequate to their special physical needs
School children, hospitalized 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)

Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation

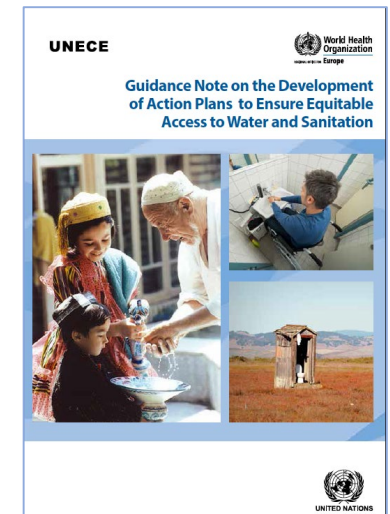
1. Setting the framework



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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>Rationale. 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
3.9.1				
<p>3.9.1 There is data on levels of access to safe drinking water and sanitation by travellers and nomadic communities</p> <p>Score justification: (explain briefly and/or give examples that justify the answer)</p> <p>Means of verification used: (e.g. official documents, multi-stakeholder consultation, expert opinion)</p> <p>Reliability of the response: (high, medium, or low)</p>				
3.9.2				
<p>3.9.2 There is a public policy to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation by travellers and nomadic communities</p>				
3.9.3				
<p>3.9.3 There is specific public funding to support access to water and sanitation by travellers and nomadic communities</p>				
<p>Please estimate the average reliability of the responses for this area (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		
	3.4 Users of educational 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		

Overview of countries experiences

Date	Countries	Assessment scale
2013	Portugal	National
2013	Ukraine	National + city
2013	France	Paris urban area
2014	Republic of Moldova	National
2015	Azerbaijan	National
2016	FYROMacedonia	Local
2016	Spain	Municipal
2016	Hungary	National
2016	Armenia	National
2017	Serbia	Regional + national
2018	Bulgaria	National

Main challenges identified:

- Gap between policy framework / Implementation
- Few or no information on level of access of vulnerable and marginalized groups (data gap)
- Low level of access to water and sanitation for some groups
- Rural / urban disparity in access
- Growing affordability concerns
- Need for more coordination between sectors
- Insufficient financing to improve access

Impact of the Equitable Access Assessments

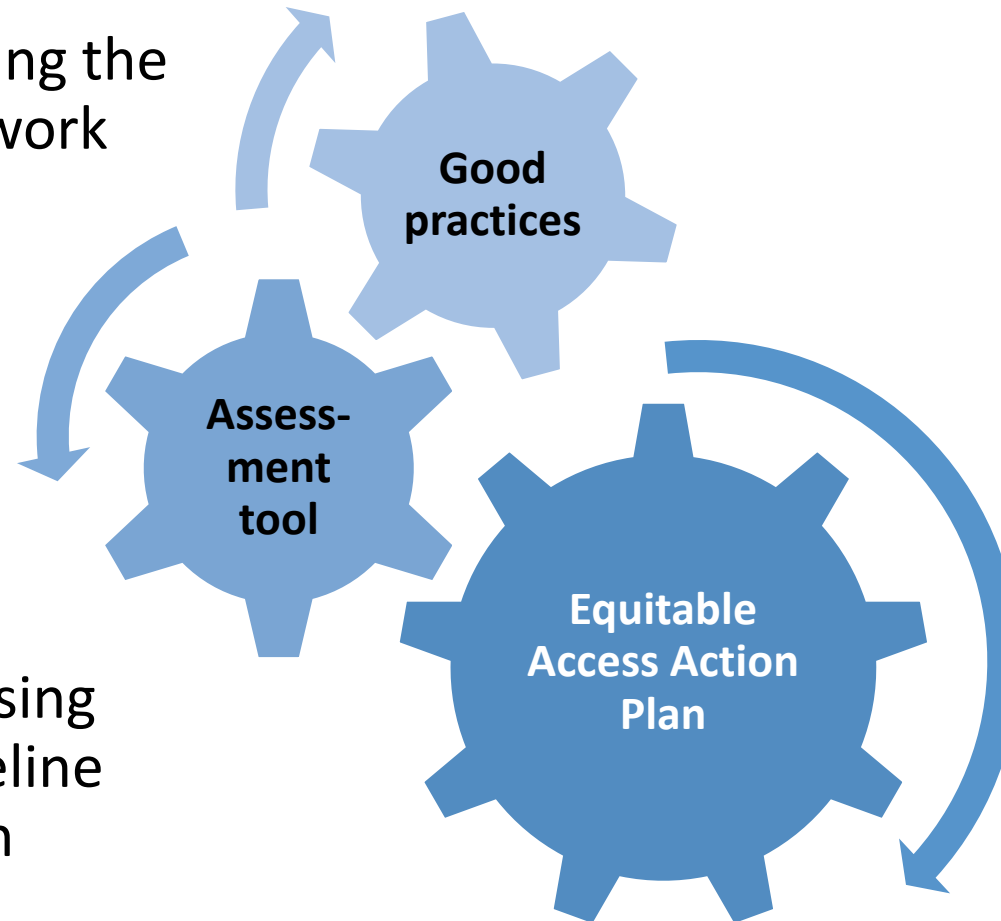
- Better understanding of the situation and challenges related to equitable access to water and sanitation and awareness raised on equity issues
- Comprehensive overview of the existing policy measures to address inequities in access to water and sanitation developed
- Outcomes provide solid basis for objective debate on improvements needed to fill identified equity gaps: basis for attracting funding, for setting of targets under Protocol, for development of policy measures...
- Self-assessment process and development of action plans supports coordination and collaboration between stakeholders
- Actions taken to address equity challenges in several countries
- Support to countries in achieving several SDGs targets

Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation

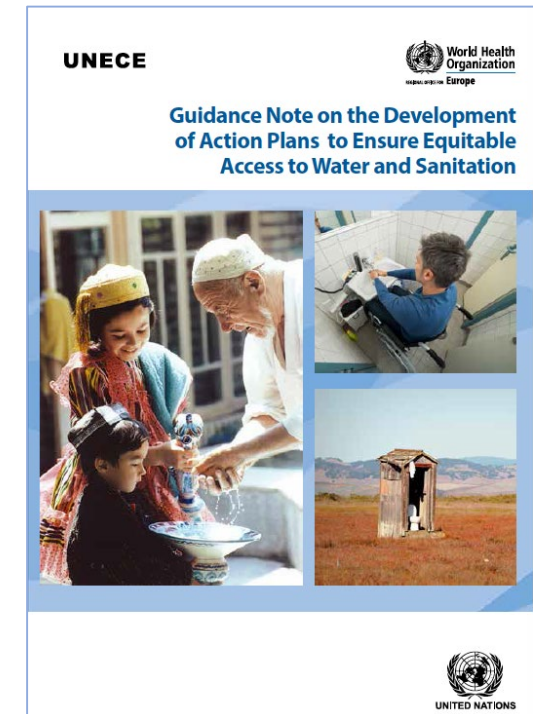


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3. Defining action



Rationale and benefits of developing an action plan

- Translates the findings of the self-assessment exercise into actions to mitigate inequalities
- Assists the progress towards international commitments
- Can serve as a basis for attracting funding for achieving equitable access

Contents of the action plan

Objectives

- State clear objectives
- Preferably measurable, quantitative targets

Brief diagnostic of the situation

- Based on the findings of the Scorecard

Priority areas for action

- Steering governance frameworks to deliver equitable access
- Reduce geographical disparities
- Ensuring access to vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Keeping water and sanitation affordable to all

Policy context

- Overview of relevant policy objectives, policy processes and sectoral strategies

Contents of the action plan (cont.)

Priority measures and related cost

- Few high priority, short term measures in detail, including cost
- Long term measures
- Examples: legal and institutional reforms, targeted investments, capacity building

Opportunities of integrating priority measures in existing plans, programmes and projects

- Identify on-going/planned programmes/projects where priority measures can be integrated
- Target setting under the Protocol on Water and Health is a natural platform

Implementation arrangements, including timelines

- Responsible / supportive stakeholders
- Timeline or chronogram

Mapping potential funding sources

- User contributions, national public funding, international financial support

Thank you for your attention !

https://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_work/equitable_access.html

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