



EUROPE

Burden of water-related diseases in the WHO European Region

Dr Roisin Rooney
European Centre for Environment and Health
WHO, Regional Office for Europe
Rome

E-mail. rro@ecr.euro.who.int



EUROPE

Outline of Presentation

- Burden of water-related diseases in the European region
- Access to water
- Access to Sanitation
- MDGs
- Data from OECD and World Bank
- Mc Kee Study
- Moldova and Ukraine



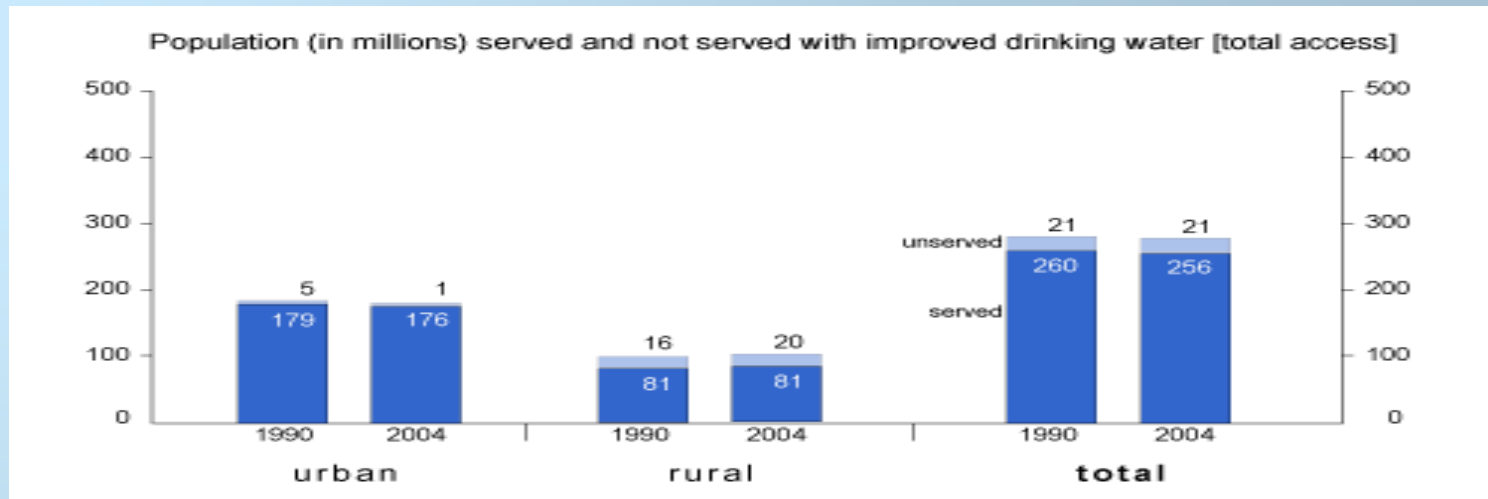
EUROPE

Water related diseases

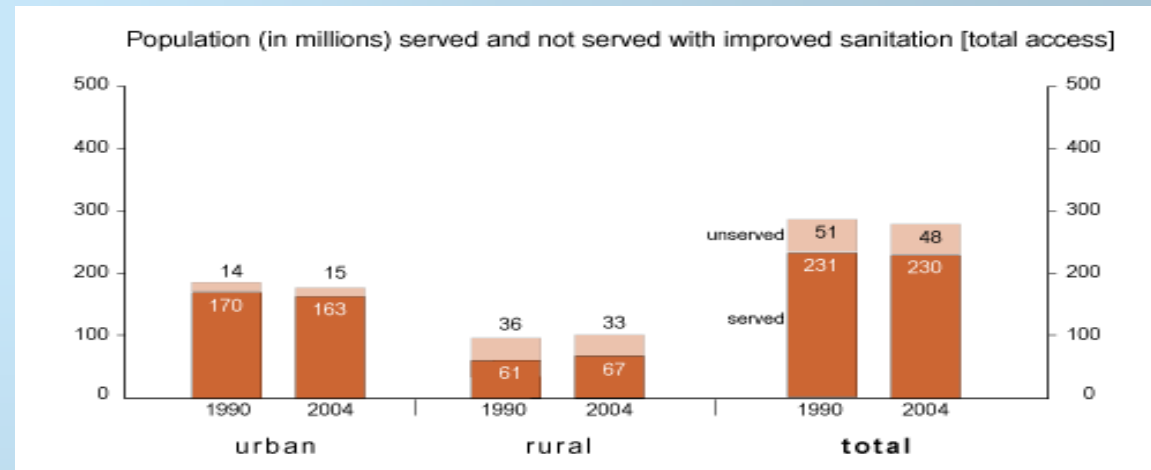
- **Estimated 120 million people do not have access to safe water in UNECE region¹ 170,000 cases of disease each year¹**
- **Microbial contamination is the prime concern**
- **Chemical contamination (As, Pb, nitrites and nitrates) are a concern in many European countries**

1. http://www.euro.who.int/watsan/waterprotocol/20030523_1

Access to improved water supply: CIS Countries



Access to improved sanitation: CIS countries





EUROPE

MDG indicators

- Over-optimistic view of situation
- Measure only people who have access to “improved” water source
- Do not address quality, availability, maintenance of existing infrastructure
- Human right to Water – availability, quality and accessibility!



EUROPE

Underlying problems

- Infrastructure has been continuously deteriorating¹
- Leakage, continuity, quality
- Much worse in rural areas
- Disposal of waste water is a major problem
- Disparities between urban and rural areas

¹Keeping Water Safe to Drink, OECD Policy Brief, March 2006



EUROPE

Mc Kee study, 2006

- Situation serious in rural areas
- Infrastructure weaknesses in towns
- One third rural population have cold water on tap in the home
- Large scale investment needed



EUROPE

Moldova and Ukraine

- Ukraine
 - 80% of drinking water comes from surface and it is estimated that 75% of this is polluted
 - Hepatitis A affected 1500 people in past 5 years
- Moldova
 - Contaminated water responsible for 20% of GI and 15% of non-infectious diseases
 - Incidence of diarrhoea increasing
 - Hepatitis A, dental fluorosis, nitrates
 - 28% of schools fail chemical standards



EUROPE

Government and donor action needed

- Water and Health must be a priority in National Development Plans
- Donors need to consider increasing investment



EUROPE

Article 14. Protocol on Water and Health

- Article 14 covers international support for National action
- AHPFM set up
 - Facilitator
 - Ad Hoc project clearing house
- Help countries meet their obligations
 - Targets and target setting
 - Surveillance of water-borne diseases



EUROPE

Conclusion

- Scale of problem enormous
- Urban – rural disparities are significant
- Need for effective systems of monitoring and surveillance, including the extent of contamination
- Need for sustained investment