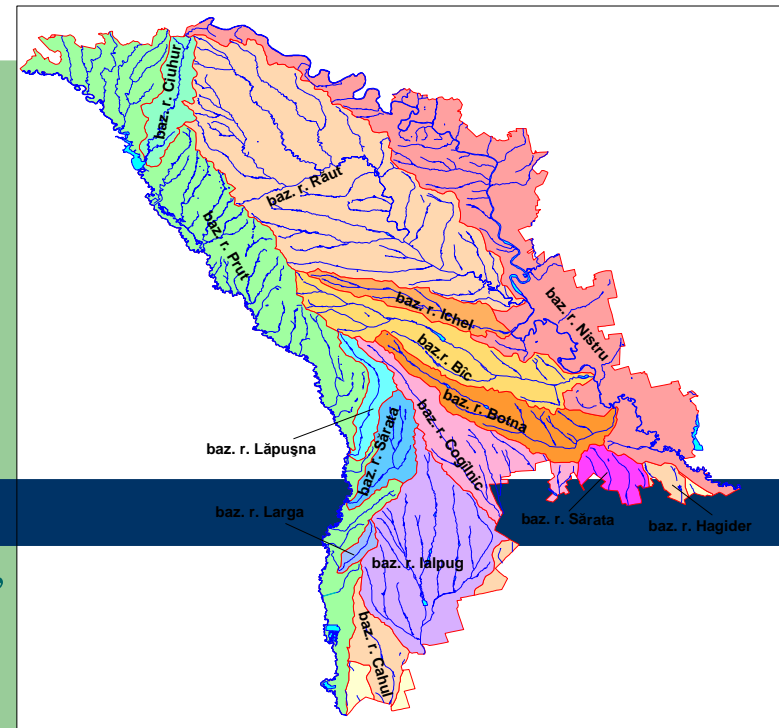


Project proposal for implementing the Protocol on Water and Health in MDA

Ion Salaru,
Ministry of Health, Republic of Moldova,
Country focal point for the PWH



AHPFM for MDA_Geneva
25.06.2008



Introduction

- Republic of Moldova signed the Protocol on Water and Health on 3 March 2000 and ratified it on 29 July 2005 by Law # 207. This Law nominates the Ministry of Health to coordinate the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, in collaboration with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.
- Moldova became a Party to the Protocol on Water and Health on 15 December 2005. Our country participates at the first Meeting of the Parties in 2007 and is involved in implementation of the activities provided by Work Plan for 2007 – 2009.



Project justification 1

- According to the Protocol on Water and Health, each Party shall establish and publish targets referred to in paragraph 2 of article 6, and target dates for achieving them. This work must be carried out within 2 years of becoming a Party.
- Art.7-review and assessment of progress.
- Till present Moldova hasn't established yet national targets and face difficulties to develop appropriate measures on how to achieve these obligations according to the Protocol:
 - (a) Access to drinking water for everyone;
 - (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone.



Project justification 2

- Contaminated drinking water is responsible for up to 20% of infectious intestinal diseases and Viral Hepatitis A cases, mainly in rural areas and 15% of non-infectious diseases each h year. Up to 45% of population is daily exposed to health risk because they consume water contaminated with nitrates, fluorine and boron at level higher than normative standards. They are also exposed to microbial pollution.
- Almost annually during last 15 years waterborne disease outbreaks were reported. The most significant outbreaks were:
- in 1993 in Straseni where 188 cases of VHA were reported,
- in 1995 in Stefan-Voda where 240 cases of cholera were reported,
- in 2003 in Comrat where 213 cases of dysentery were reported,
- in 2007 in Ciadar-Lunga where 138 cases of dysentery were reported.
- The incidence rate was 368 cases of diarrhoeal per 100.000 populations in 2005 and 440 cases in 2007.



Project justification 3

- Moldova has a large rural population – 59% according to the 2003 census. Out of 1678 settlements, 68 are urban and 1610 rural. Total population is 4.1 millions people. About 1.2 millions people are supplied from surface water sources i.e. 30% of the population, mainly urban, and another 70% are supplied from found sources, mainly rural populations. According to the data from the Ministry of Health, 3315 artesian wells and 116.000 shallow wells are in use.
- Moldova is the poorest country in Europe. The average income of rural population is almost two times lower than country average of 710 USD per capita (World Bank Report, 2007). Lack of access to safe drinking water supplies and improved sanitation systems contribute to social and public health problems in Moldova.



Project justification 4

- Drinking water supply of schools and kindergartens face serious problems-23,8% of samples didn't met guidelines on chemical parameters and 16% on microbiological parameters.
- 55% of the population has connection to pipe systems: 85% urban, 25% rural. Are operated 804 water supply systems: 744 rural and 60 urban. More than a half of systems connections are not sustainable because the infrastructure is old and the systems are not maintained properly.
- Up to 45% of the general population without access to safe water sources, Rural population – 75% without access to safe sources;
- Initiated a long process to improve existing legislation. Were developed Sanitary Norms on DWQ approved by GD 934/15.08.07, published on 15.08.07. Contain new monitoring principles, 58 quality parameters, establish reporting mechanism But this process should be continued, because are necessary have an appropriate DWQ monitoring system and surveillance for waterborne diseases.



Project justification 5

- Government recognises water and sanitation as the first social priority, but leak of financial resources at the central and local levels make difficult projects implementation.
- The majority of the local authorities and population consider the main priority drinking water supply and do not pay enough attention to sanitation.
- Moldova needs support for capacity building of human and technical resources to absorb international financial allocations in water and sanitation sector.
- Initiated in Moldova National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management create premises for good understanding of responsibilities for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Protect Your Water For Life



Participants

- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (including State Agency for Geology and State Hydrometeorological Service),
- Ministry of Construction and Territorial Development,
- Ministry of Local Public Authorities,
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry,
- Ministry of Economy and Trade,
- Ministry of Finance,
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (including Service for Civil Protection and Emergencies),
- Water Management Agency “Apele Moldovei” (Moldavian Waters),
- State Company “Teleradio Moldova”,
- Academy of Sciences of Moldova,
- Moldovan Association of drinking water supply and sanitation systems operators “Apa-Canal”.
- Water Company “Apa-Canal” Chisinau,
- Chisinau municipality,
- REC Moldova,
- NGOs “Ecological Movement”, “ECO-TIRAS”, “Human Ecology”, others.

Main expected outputs

- Project will obtain 3 main products:
- Development of commonly agreed national targets and target dates for the Protocol on Water and Health and establishment of a reporting mechanism based on indicators.
- Establishment of a Steering Committee for the Protocol on Water and Health to propose the most sustainable solutions for Water and Health problems and improve cooperation between all major stakeholders and authorities for better water management on the whole territory, including Transdnistria Region.
- Development of an Action Plan to be approved by the Government (to contain a special chapter on Water Safety Plans implementation).

Overall goal

- **Setting targets and target dates in Republic of Moldova for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health**

Project objectives

- To organize consultations between relevant health, environment and water management authorities.
- To make it clear that the Protocol is a legally binding document and that articles 6 and 7 require countries to set targets within two years.
- To assess the current situation based on the knowledge of different key players.
- To list legal obligations, relating to water, for each authority.
- To list goals set by each authority and compile a list of activities
- To set up committee to undertake a gap analysis.
- To define future activities.
- To publish the gap analysis.
- To establish a common work program with a time frame and expected results. Common goals and indicators to be agreed and identified.
- To organize meetings and workshops to provide key stakeholders with background information.

Project objectives 2

- To agree a program of work to be communicated to all interested parties (communities, water and sanitation operators, health authorities) both at national and at local level.
- To communicate program, targets and target dates to the public.
- To identify indicators to be used to monitor progress. Indicators will reflect the different activities to be carried out by different actors at national and local level and will take into account the parameters adopted by the Meeting of the Parties
- To agree on evaluation methods.
- The structure of the national report will be compatible with the requirements and standards of the other reporting mechanisms. Reports will reflect the scheduled evaluations.

Project methodology

- Consultations between relevant health, environment and water management authorities – through Round tables and informal meetings.
- To assess the current situation based on the knowledge of the different key players – collection of all reports to make additional evaluation.
- Setting up a Steering committee to define and coordinate future activities

Project methodology 2

Publishing of a gap analysis.

Workshops and informal meetings.

Programme for action on Protocol implementation with targets and target dates.

Project methodology 3

Dissemination of information to the general public

Identification and adoption of indicators to be used for monitoring progress.

Design of a programme for action on Protocol Agreement on the evaluation methods.

Monitoring and evaluation of the project itself

Project activities 2008-2009 (1)

1. Presentation of the Protocol to the key players (all institutions to be involved in the project as mention above) at national level
2. Consultations between relevant health, environment and water management authorities for assessing current situation based on the knowledge of the different key players.
3. To undertake and publish a gap analysis.

Project activities 2008-2009 (2)

4. To set up a Steering committee for the Protocol on Water and Health (responsibilities).
 - to co-ordinate the implementation of the PWH
 - to co-ordinate the implementation of legal instruments in inter-ministerial competence
 - to inform policy makers and the government in the water-and-health related matters
 - to make informal arrangements for smoother co-operation of the relevant ministerial departments in the water-and-health related affair
 - To promote and assist public access to information in matters of water-and-health relevance
 - To facilitate communication between all interested parties (communities, water distributors, health and environmental authorities, NGOs) both at national and at local level

Project activities 2008-2009 (3)

5. To draw targets and target dates to fulfill the objectives of the Protocol. .(examples:
targets and target dates to be communicated to the public
6. Key players should identify indicators to be used to monitor the progress of the Protocol implementation. Indicators should reflect the different activities to be carried out by different actors at national and local level and should take into account the parameters adopted by the Meeting of the Parties
7. Monitoring and evaluation of the programme itself. The structure of the national report should be compatible with the requirements and standards of the other reporting mechanisms.

Project budget

- Total project budget was calculated to be approximately 150.000 USD.
- Main articles:
- Human resources -77,500
- Training – 20,000
- Communication – 15,000
- Field survey and monitoring – 12,500

MDA contribution

- Preliminary discussed that an amount up to 3% of the total cost of the project can be covered from National Ecological Fund (should be decided later for 2009).
- In kind support and work of governmental employees.



Conclusions

- Project is proposed to be implemented in 12 months: 1 November 2008-31 October 2009.
- It's very important for Moldova to be supported financially to implement this project – will create a basis for launching other important actions.
- Way to achieve the main objective: to reduce water related diseases through improved water management.