



UNDP Programme in Europe & CIS promoting a Human Rights-Based Approach to Water and Sanitary Health

First results and way ahead

Juerg Staudenmann, *Water Governance Advisor*
Katy Norman, *Programme Analyst*

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Outline



- Key messages
- The UNDP Programme – aims, objectives, structure
- First results (*Bosnia i Herzegovina, Tajikistan*)
- Stakeholder Perspectives / value-added
- Way forward – next steps

Key Messages



- New UNDP Programme promoting a *Human Rights-Based Approach to Water Governance / WSS* underway – assessment missions in 2 countries (Bosnia/Herzegovina, Tajikistan)
- Stakeholders embrace UNDP's approach as
 - *Relevant and in line* with existing country priorities and on-going work
 - *Adding value* (complementing rhetoric with concrete results on the ground)
- *Partners & resources needed* for implementation phase in BiH / Taj, further work (4-6 more countries in 2010)!

The UNDP Programme

- Aim:
 - Reliable access to ... water & sanitary health – for all
 - **Bridge gap** between '*right to water*' rhetoric & reality
 - *E.g. by promoting & supporting govts to implement PWH*

- Objective:
 - Develop new, comprehensive national programs
 - with concrete interventions at local level in the cross-field of *human rights – water – sanitation/health*
 - Support governments of Europe & CIS
 - to build *partnerships*, mobilize needed *resources* and
 - *Implement* projects and (mainstreamed) interventions

Programme Structure



- **PHASE 1:** Desk assessments (Individual country studies), TORs and work plans
- **PHASE 2:** Country detail mission(s) with in-depth stakeholder consultations, development of detailed project proposals, partner and resource mobilization
- **PHASE 3:** Launch of programme / project(s) – UNDP-supported inception, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation
- **Overarching:** Lessons / Knowledge Management, M&E, workshop(s) at pan-regional level

Results: Bosnia i Herzegovina



- Weak governance & degrading infrastructure impeding the authorities meeting their water service delivery obligations
- Experience from RMAP (rights-based municipal assessment programme): **Lack of knowledge & awareness** about RTW and HR processes in general
- **Difficult for intl. HR standards** to fully guide a program. Must be tailored to a pragmatic, context-specific approach.
- Legislative framework sufficient, problem is **enforcement / implementation**

Results: BiH (cont)

- **Priority groups:** RURAL, 125,000 IDPs, Roma, minority returnees, schoolchildren, disabled persons.
- **Main Issues:** ageing infrastructure, institutional fragmentation, weak LA capacity, groundwater pollution, pricing/revenue collection, water usage metering
- **Suggested UN(DP) Interventions:**
 - *Water Rights & Responsibilities Awareness Campaign / Capacity Building (joint UNDP-UNICEF)*
 - *Comprehensive programme with target setting and on-the-ground interventions promoting safe/secure Water Service Delivery for IDPs*

Results: Tajikistan



- Top “water wealthy” in world, but able to provide **just 59% population with potable water**
- **Very weak governance** of water resources
- **Lack of knowledge & awareness** about RTW & process through which to claim rights & hold DBs accountable
- **New approach needed:** Over a decade of support from various donors – with little tangible improvement
- Legislative framework adequate, problem is **implementation and “buy-in”** to *Effective Water Governance*

Results: Tajikistan (cont)



- **Priority groups:** Rural communities, schools & medical institutions (WHO?)
- **Main Issues:** Soviet era – market economy transition, integrated water resources management (IWRM), payment/fee collection
- **UN(DP) Interventions:**
 - *National Strategies to advance (rural) WSS (supported i.a. by CA IWRM programme)*
 - *Promote HR / RTW focus within UNDP's decentralized "Communities Programme"*
 - *Targeted action for awareness & empowerment: Mobile theatres / capacity building workshops / etc.*

National Perspectives



- **Stakeholders** both in B&H and Tajikistan:
 - Broadly and actively welcome a HRBA as a *new, innovative and promising approach* of improving access to water and governing it
 - See the HRBA *fit closely to country needs and priorities* (e.g. target setting)
 - Think HRBA *fills an important gap* in development approaches aimed to improve water governance / access to water and sanitation
 - Expect HRBA to complement existing (infrastructure-focus) projects, to *ensure real, lasting impact on the ground*

Summary



- A Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) *adds value* through:
 - Improved **accountability** in the water sector
 - **Empowering** the powerless
 - Increased **participation** in decision-making
 - Potentially more **sustainable & higher quality outcomes**
 - Builds on needs assessments (incl. “PWH Target Setting”), complements traditional approaches to make a *real difference on the ground*

Next Steps



- **BiH / Tajikistan:**
 - Finalize design of concrete projects / programmes (Aug 09)
 - including provisions to promote / implement PWH as feasible ...
 - Partner & resource mobilization (Jul-Dec 09)
 - Launch, inception & implementation (2010 ...)

- Further **country assessments** (4-6 until end 2010):
 - *Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Ukraine, (Georgia, Moldova, Armenia ...?)*
 - *Kosovo, Cyprus, Turkey, ...*

- **Regional Work/Studies:**
 - Comparing PWH Guidelines with M&R systems under MDG, GoAL-WaSH, ... → TF Indicators & Reporting
 - *Good practice* examples to improve (equitable) access to WSS
 - Active participation in TF's, regional workshops, ...

Thank you!

juerg.staudenmann@undp.org
katy.norman@undp.org

<http://europeandcis.undp.org>
<http://WaterWiki.net>