
Setting targets process in Moldova for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health

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General notes

- With both – UNECE and Swiss Government support, Republic of Moldova developed and approved in 2010 national targets and target dates for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.
- This exercise allowed Moldova to fulfill its international obligations and paved the way for a comprehensive implementation of the Protocol.
- The responsibilities of Steering Committee, established for the target setting process, were extended after targets approval on 20 October 2010 for coordination of target implementation.

Priority issues for actions

- A baseline analysis made before drawing targets confirmed the following **5 priority issues for action** under the Protocol:
- Improving Drinking Water Quality and establishing water safety plans;
- Increasing the sustainable access of urban and rural populations to improved sources of drinking water and improved facilities of sanitation;
- Maintaining the relative good status of the existing response systems on water-related diseases;
- Improving wastewater treatment;
- Strengthening measures that will lead to intergraded water resources management, including River Basin Management Plans.

Specific areas for setting targets

- * Totally were set 34 targets for all 20 areas stipulated by Article 6 of the Protocol.
- * For the areas VII -Art. 6, 2 (f), first part and VIII - Art. 6, 2 (f), second part, related to the application of recognized good practices in the management of water supply and sanitation were set a common target due to their close interdependence.
- * None of 20 have been intentionally excluded from target setting. For target area XVI - Art. 6, 2 (j), third part - Quality of waters used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting shellfish, was set target only for waters used for aquaculture, because for the Republic of Moldova as a landlocked country, targets for the quality of waters used for the production or harvesting shellfish are not a priority.

Relationship between targets

- * Setting target process clearly shows the interdependence of action on the 20 Target areas.
- * For example, improved wastewater treatment will have a positive effect on the quality of water resources, will lead to an improvement of the sources of drinking water, improve bathing waters, and decrease the potential of water-related diseases.
- * Another example is the access of the population to improved sources of drinking water; this will sharpen the requirements for wastewater treatment, and calls for the establishment of protection zones for water intakes.
- * Therefore, targets and measures established under one area have an implication for other target areas.

Setting targets process

- * An important aspect considered during the process was whether there were already activities ongoing or planned, under national action plans or international assistance programmes to facilitate achievement of target dates for the Protocol implementation.
- * It became clear during the process, that some of existing programmes and legal acts contained some provisions, which seemed to be unrealistic to be achieved under the current situation (economic, lack of financial and human resources) and over the next period of time-as examples - MDG, Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation
- * Were selected very specific issues that would call for more specific legislative acts, such as specific regulations on drinking water, bathing water, surface water and groundwater issues.

Setting targets process

- * The Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation, approved by the Government in 2007 (currently under revision) provided a good basis for developing targets and target dates under the Protocol in the field of water supply and sanitation (e.g. rehabilitation of water supply systems as well as sanitation systems in a number of urban and rural settlements). At the same time, were carefully analysed the status of the measures, proposed in the Strategy, in order to establish a realistic draft programme under the Protocol until 2020.
- * Altogether, the prioritisation phase has led to a reduction targets: from some 100 draft targets, drawn up at an early stage, to the final set of 34 targets, which realistically can be achieved until 2020, for target area I (DWQ) –until 2025.

Some challenges during the target setting

- * When Steering Group was working with representatives of central authorities, there is always a tendency that they stress action to be taken at the national level, for example, to develop mainly normative base and establish centralized systems.
- * Therefore, an important aspect of the target setting process – was also to seek solutions for local problems and look for decentralized approaches.
- * One example is the requirement to “Increase the number of settlements and the share of its population which is served by small (individual and/or collective) systems of improved sanitation that became part of the Target area IV: Access to sanitation, also development of legal base for small scale DWS and sanitation systems.

Some challenges during the target setting

- * Existing administrative, institutional, managerial and financial frameworks were at the root of the step “identification and prioritization of problems”.
- * During the phase “prioritization of problems” particular attention was paid to the question, whether the setting of a specific target under one Target area would also help solving an issue that is part of another Target area.
- * An example of such “multipurpose targets” is the target “Setting up of water safety plans” (Target area I), which helps achieving the purposes of other Target areas related to the quality of DWS. Vice-versa, targets as to the reduction of the percentage of non-compliance with drinking water standards will help achieving the purposes of the water safety plans.

Specific target areas

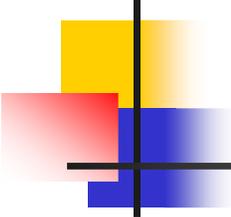
- * Target area I - Art. 6, 2 (a) - Quality of the drinking water supplied
- * From initial proposed 8 targets remain 4,
- * Reduce the percentage of non-compliance of drinking water with microbiological parameters (E. coli, enterococi): for rural areas – 10%, 7%, 5% respectively for 2015, 2020, 2025 and for urban area - 5% and 3% respectively for 2015, 2020 of annual samples,
- * Reduce the percentage of non-compliance with drinking water standards for five main chemical parameters - 5% and 3% respectively for 2015, 2020 of annual samples,
- * Achieve fully compliance of drinking water quality in 95% of schools for 2015 and 100% of schools until 2020.
- * Set up water safety plans: for all cities in 2015 and all locations > than 5000 inh. – in 2020.

Specific target areas

- * Target area III - Art. 6, 2 (c) - Access to drinking water
 - * Provide access of the population to improved water supply:
2015: 68% of the total population, 35% of the rural population
2020: 80% of the total population, 45% of the rural population
 - * Increase the access of children in schools and kindergartens to improved water supply: 2015: In 95% of institutions and 2020 - In 100% of institutions
- * Target area XX - Art. 6, 2 (n) - Frequency of publication of information on the quality of drinking water supplied and of other waters relevant to the Protocol – established 5 targets:
 - * Publication of national and regional reports on DWQ, bathing WQ;
 - * A Clearing House on the Protocol on Water and Health established

Setting targets – main Challenges

- * All set 34 targets we consider realistic, even some of them are quite ambitious due to necessity of implementation of major inter-sectorial actions, such as harmonizing of legislation, reforming water and sanitation sectors, implementation of infrastructure projects, strengthening laboratory and human capacities for monitoring of DWQ and water related disease surveillance, etc.
- * One of the biggest challenge will be to improve DWQ and to reduce percentage of non-compliance water samples due to higher concentration of chemical parameters this requires big investments in treatment technologies or extending of existing WSS.
- * Will be quite difficult to achieve, for ex. access to improved sanitation until 2020 for 90% of urban population and 70% of rural population (actual figures – 75% and 35%).



Follow-up activities

- To assure sustainability of Steering Committee, it's mandate was extended for the period of target implementation.
- Next important step – to develop and approve an Action Plan for target implementation according to existing real capacities and possibilities of Moldova.
- To apply for external support – almost impossible, without foreign investment to achieve some targets, especially those which requires infrastructure development
- Established Sectorial Coordination Council for Water and Sanitation under the auspicious of Environment Minister also will contribute to this process.
- Republic of Moldova applied for new support to Swiss Cooperation Agency for target implementation

Thanks for your attention!

