EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

Pilot: Greater Paris urban area (France)
Paris – SEDIF – SIAAP
Objectives: assessing equitable access in the greater Paris urban area

Composition of the pilot team:

- Ministry of Health
- City of Paris and its water operator Eau de Paris
- Water Union of Ile-de-France (water delivery for 149 municipalities) and its operator Veolia Eau d’Ile-de-France
- Paris urban area wastewater treatment authority (Paris, 3 surrounding départements → 1980 km2)
Region profile

- **Population**: 8.8 M inhabitants connected to the SIAAP sanitation network
- **GDP**: 48 378 €/person in Ile de France region
- **Only urban area**, mostly collective housing, all connected to the water and sanitation network
- **But a contrasted territory** (poverty lines from 8.5 to 18%), with price disparities
- **Complexity of water and sanitation organization**
Gathering data and situational analysis by the pilot team

Discussion with stakeholders during the workshop (18&19 February 2013)
- French ministries and sanitary authorities (Health, Environment, Foreign Affairs, ARS)
- Users’ NGOs (France Libertés, CLCV, Obusass) and a trade union (CGT)
- NGO working with vulnerable and marginalized groups: ATD Quart Monde
- Research (Académie de l’eau)
- Other water and sanitation services (CG 93) and a center of social action (CCAS)
- International organizations (UNECE, WHO)
Main findings

- **Governance framework**
  - On a national level, several planning documents to ensure a safe access to water and sanitation, the right to housing, to fight against insalubrious housing...
  - Equitable access is a political and social goal (LEMA, Cambon and Brottes laws)
  - Local initiatives can complement the nat. framework: SEDIF’s Water Solidarity Program and Paris’ performance contract with Eau de Paris

- Complexity of actors and disposals requires a good coordination

- To a large extent, France and the greater Paris area have a strategic framework with dedicated financial resources to ensure equitable access
Main findings

- Reducing geographical disparities
  - urban pilot area
  - Actions taken to provide water and sanitation to slums and informal settlements
  - Price disparities

- Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
  - Many sector policies to address the needs of these groups
  - Improving access for unconnected people (insalubrious housing, homeless, nomadic communities…)
    - Example: free sanisettes and fountains in Paris
  - In institutions: legal framework ≠ practice
Main findings

- Keeping water and sanitation affordable for all
  - Price disparities (btw 3.18 and 5.15 €/m3 in 2012)
  - Public policies (preventive and remedial aids with housing solidarity funds) and local initiatives
    - Example: SEDIF’s water solidarity program – when the water bill represents more than 3% of the household’s income, social services deliver water checks, or financial aid through HSF
    - Paris: preventive and remedial housing aid distributed to almost 60 000 people in 2011
Next steps

- Presentation to the National Water Committee
- Publication in a technical journal
PILOTING THE SCORECARD: BENEFITS OBTAINED AND LESSONS LEARNED

Pilot: Greater Paris area
General remarks

✓ Complex exercise due to:

  o Difficulty to define the precise study area
  o Large range of data to be collected
  o Numerous stakeholders
  o Time consuming exercise

✓ But provides high accuracy on current situation…

✓ … and useful tool for an objective debate
Defining the study area: working at a subnational scale

- What are the limits of the Great Paris area?
  - Administrative boundaries
    - Municipalities
    - Intermunicipalities
    - Departement
    - Region
  - Technical boundaries
    - Water operators
    - Wastewater operators
    - Social services...

- What fall within the national and the local level?
Data gathering

✓ Lack of centralised data on access to water
  o Numerous producers
  o Non homogeneous data in space and in time
  o Difficulty to assess precisely the reliability of data

✓ Lack of data for some topics
  o Prisons, schools...
  o Reglementary data but not precise data at the individual scale
Focus not only on water and sanitation bill
  - Stresses the case of unconnected people
  - Stresses the case of access outside homes

Question about the effectiveness of reglementary implementation
  - More accurate assessment of the efficiency of the different devices
  - Gap between official texts and field reality

Drawing a picture at a regional scale
Communication tool

✓ Allows an objective debate
  o Discussion between stakeholders oriented on
    ▪ The need to produce reliable data
    ▪ Building a common understanding of the situation before giving prebuilt solutions
  o Thinking « out of the box »
    ▪ By giving the floor to a large range of stakeholders
    ▪ By having a discussion driven by data

✓ Allows a more consensual assessment
  o Scoring is a collective job
Conclusions

✓ Challenging exercise
  o Too time consuming to produce every year

✓ Very precise analysis
  o Allows to focus on main problems for policy makers

✓ Different level of analysis between national and regional levels
  o Allows a deeper analysis of access to water and sanitation at regional level

✓ First assess the existence of devices and after assess their efficiency