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

First results and way ahead

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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
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
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
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
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.
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*
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!

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