

Introduction to the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health and its activities on equitable access to water and sanitation

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Equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health



The **Protocol** key objectives:

- (a) Access to drinking water for everyone
- (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone



A **specific focus on *equitable access***:

“Equitable access to water, adequate in terms both of quantity and of quality, should be provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion” (art. 5)



Equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health

- **Safety:** Ensure «adequate supplies of water free from [...] substances which constitute a potential danger to human health»
 - **Implementation strategy:** Set targets and target dates, develop plan for achieving the targets, provisions for public participation
 - **Monitoring:** Establish arrangement for monitoring achievement of targets, Compliance Committee (possibility of communication from public if non compliance)
- The Protocol: a practical **instrument to progressively implement** the human right to water and sanitation and contribute to the SDGs implementation

Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation



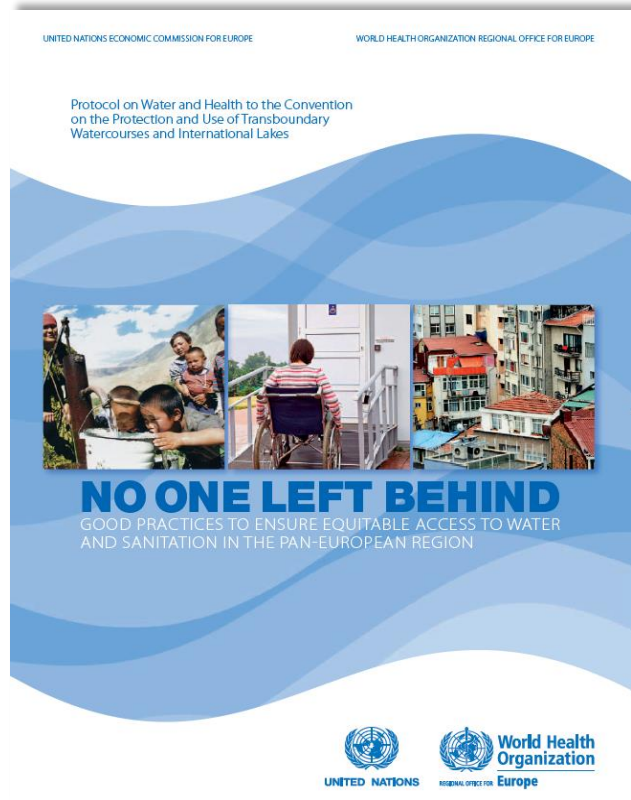
2012
No One
Left
Behind



2013
Equitable
Access
Score
Card



No One Left Behind



- Identifies key **challenges** in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation
- Analyzes **national governance frameworks** and options for them to address equitable access
- Presents concrete **good practices** and lessons learnt on policy options and measures to address inequities

Inequities to be fought on 3 fronts

Dimension	Inequities in access to water and sanitation
Geographical disparities: water resources, WSS infrastructure	Certain areas of a country (rural areas, poor urban neighborhoods) have no physical access or have access of lower quality than other areas
Social disparities: vulnerable and marginalised groups	Within areas with good access, certain groups do not have access because they don't have private facilities, the public and institutional facilities they rely on are not adequate, or suffer unintended or intended discrimination
Economic disparities: affordability issues	Within areas with good access, the water and sanitation bill represents too large a share of disposable income for some households

Need to steer governance frameworks to ensure equitable access

Good water
governance
and
management

- transparency and access to information
- inclusive participation
- efficiency incentives for operators
- accountability and redress mechanisms

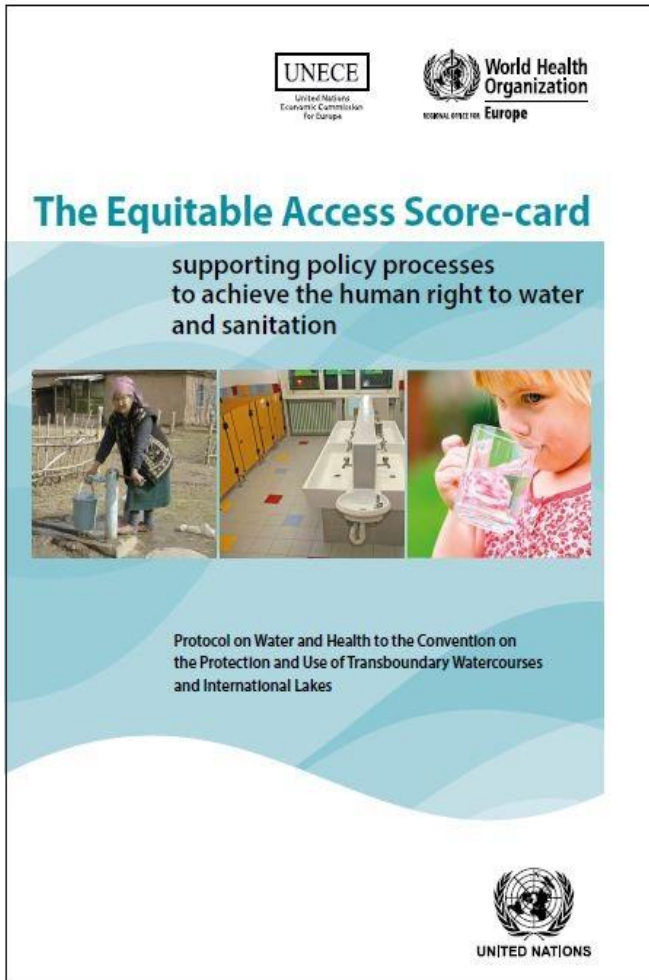
“Equitable
access lens” to
speed up
progress

- country situation analysis (indicator-based)
- action plan (results-oriented)

Checklist

- ① Reflect international commitments in national legislation
- ② Allocate responsibilities and financial resources
- ③ Set equitable access targets
- ④ Promote the adoption of an “equitable access lens” among policymakers and operators through capacity development
- ⑤ Invest efforts in better understanding the linkages between equitable access to different public services
- ⑥ Develop programmes to raise awareness among users of their rights and the mechanisms to enforce them
- ⑦ Analyze and publish the progress in closing equity gaps
- ⑧ Develop accountability mechanisms to identify violations and seek redress
- ⑨ Create national or local spaces for discussion and coordination between competent authorities
- ⑩ Ensure that institutional mechanisms monitor and enforce coverage, quality and cost targets and standards

The Equitable Access Score-card



- A self-evaluation **analytical tool**...
- ... that can be used by governments (and other stakeholders) in **establishing a baseline, tracking progress, and prompting discussions on further actions** needed to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation...
- ... in order to **support the implementation of policies and practices** to uphold the human rights to water and sanitation under the principle of “progressive realization”.

Progress in assessing equitable access

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- A large blue arrow pointing downwards, indicating a progression or timeline from top to bottom.
- *Pilot projects (2012-2013)*: France, Portugal, Ukraine
 - *Finalized assessments*: Republic of Moldova, Hungary, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 - *On going assessments*: Azerbaijan, Armenia
 - *Upcoming assessments*: Serbia, Albania?, Bulgaria?



Developing a Strategic note on the development of equitable access action plans

Rationale

- Several international requirements to ensure equitable access (HRWS, Protocol, SDGs)
- Difficulty to address inequities in access identified through equitable access assessment
- Development of Strategic note to guide development of action plans to address equity gaps

Process

Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation (May 2015): exchange of experience and initial discussion on possible «equitable access action plan»

Working Group on Water and Health (November 2015): draft Strategic Note submitted for comments

Equitable Access workshop (March 2016): exchange of experience to inform development strategic note

MOP4 (November 2016): possible adoption

Draft strategic note on the development of action plans to ensure equitable access

What do we call an Equitable Access Action Plan?

A document which identifies and prioritizes:



Measures to be adopted to address the identified gaps



Opportunities for including priority measures in official plans, programmes and projects



Stakeholders to be involved

Draft strategic note on the development of action plans to ensure equitable access

What could be the content of an Equitable Access Action Plan?

- Identify a limited number of main priority areas
- Identify priority of measures (evaluation of existing policies, legal & institutional reforms, targeted investments, communication efforts...)
- Identify existing or planned strategies in which to integrate prioritized equitable access measures
- Identify governmental institutions responsible
- Include a resource mobilization strategy



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Thank you for your attention!

