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Case study: Analysis of the situation after the ratification of the Protocol in Moldova

Ilya Trombitsky & Tatiana Siniaeva

Eco-TIRAS International Association of River Keepers

Chisinau, Moldova



Introduction: Why Protocol is important for Moldova?

Quality of drinking water in rural areas and related diseases

- Access to drinking water
- Necessity of investments
- Transboundary impacts and need of cooperation





Establishing of national targets and target dates (1)

- Moldova decided to select all 20 targets and establish target dates to all of them
- The main attention is given to supply with quality drinking water and sanitation
- Rural areas is the main priority due to weak access to quality drinking water (nitrate and flour high content and high mineralization)

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Active cooperation with Helsinki Convention Secretariat with support of SDC

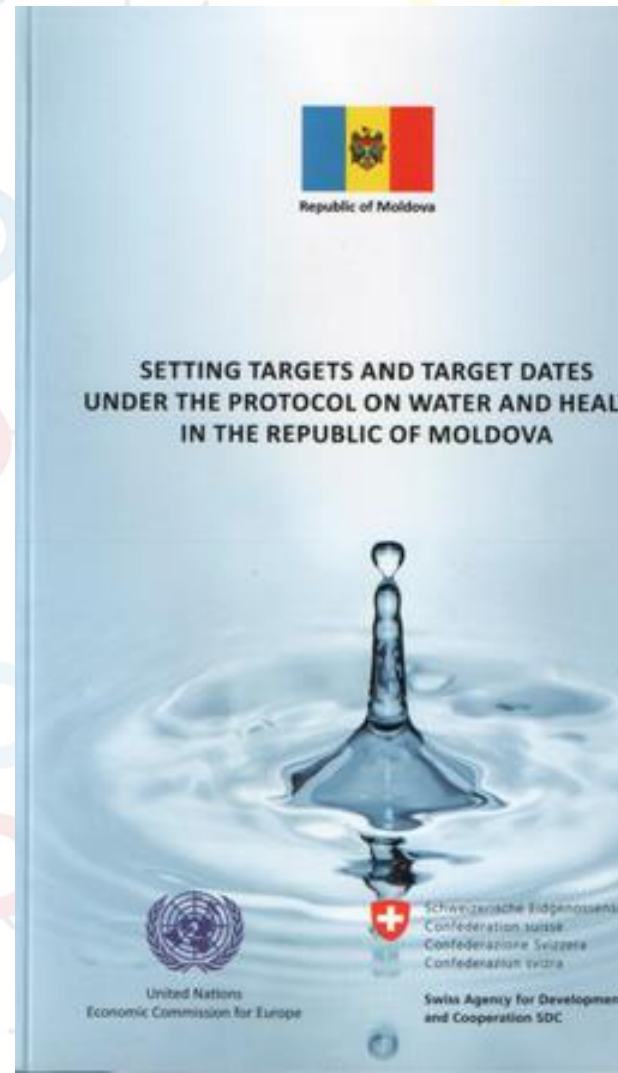
- The 2.5 years project has finished with established targets and target dates and joint MoH and MoE Order on cooperation on Protocol implementation.

Coordination Council was established by the joint order of the ministers of health and environment no. 17/115 of 19 September, 2010, which had in its composition 17 representatives of various public authorities, institutions, as well as **representatives of civil society**.

- The book was published in three languages



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- the WHO Guide for establishing target indicators was taken into account in the development process. At the final Workshop in September 2010, the final draft for 35 national target indicators for all 20 areas of the Protocol was presented and agreed.
- After consultations with all the members of the Coordinating Council, by the joint order of the ministers of health and environment 91/704 of 20th October, 2010, the List of national targets and the terms of their achievement was approved. Through this order, the mandate of the Coordinating Council was extended, and the need to develop actions to achieve the targets was also emphasized.



Approval of the National Action Programme for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025

- The need to improve communication and inform the population and the authorities regarding the importance of achieving the Protocol targets was realized. One of the most promising measures was the **creation of the Water and Health Protocol Information Center "Clearing House" at the end of 2013 within the National Public Health Center** (currently the National Public Health Agency).
- The Government established that there is a need for a substantial modernization of the water supply and sewage systems in the localities of the Republic of Moldova. For this purpose, **the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy for 2014-2030 was adopted, approved by Government Decision No. 199 of March 20, 2014 (it was amended by GD 442/2020 and extended until 2030, originally it included the period of 2014 -2028)**. The purpose of this strategy is the development of the water supply and sanitation sector, the creation of the necessary framework for the gradual assurance, until 2030, of **access to safe water and adequate sanitation for all localities and the population**.



Approval of the National Action Programme for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025

- The National Programme for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025 was adopted by GD 1063 of September 16, 2016, published in the Official Gazette of September 20, 2016, art.1141) (GD, 2016).
- The Programme includes 3 annexes:
- Annex 1 - The target indicators for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and the terms of their achievement
- Annex 2 - Action plan for the National Programme regarding the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025
- Annex 3 - Funding of specific objectives for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025.



The purpose and objectives of the Programme:

- Oriented towards the integration of the water and health priorities of the Protocol in the Republic of Moldova with the national processes of planning actions in the sectors of water supply, sanitation, health and other areas with reference to the Protocol in order to achieve the target indicators of the Protocol.
- The general objective of the Programme is to achieve the target indicators of the Protocol for the 20 fields by 2025, resulting from the competences and responsibilities provided for in the national legislation and international conventions and agreements, ratified by the Republic of Moldova.
- The Programme constitutes the basic document for planning strategic actions in the medium and long term for the achievement of target indicators in accordance with the commitments of the Republic of Moldova to the Protocol until 2025.



The specific objectives of the Programme:

- ensuring by the year 2025 the distribution of safe drinking water in 100% institutions for children
- reduction of up to 20% of non-compliant drinking water samples with basic chemical parameters and 5% with microbiological parameters;
- reducing by 20% by 2025 the number of epidemic outbreaks of infectious diseases and the incidence of waterborne diseases;
- ensuring access to sustainable drinking water systems in 100% of children's institutions by 2025;
- ensuring 100% population access to improved sanitation systems by 2025, including up to 50% to sewage systems;
- increasing the degree of identification and remediation of particularly contaminated lands, etc.

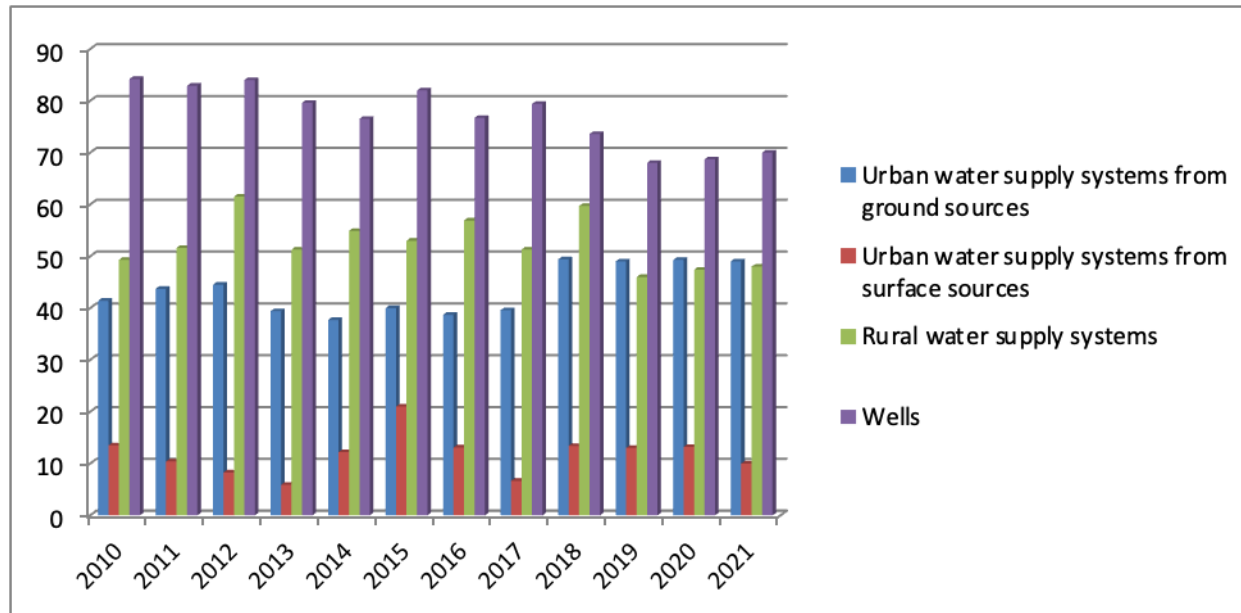


Formal parameters of AP and Programme

- The Action Plan provides 77 actions to improve the situation, such as strengthening the legal framework, creating information and disease surveillance systems, developing the infrastructure for water supply and sewage systems, building water treatment stations for the improvement of drinking water supplied to consumers, the improvement of water quality monitoring, public information on water and health issues.
- The national Programme adopted 33 target indicators and their values for the intermediate term - y.2020 and the final term - y. 2025 for their achievement.



The proportion of non-compliance samples of drinking water for chemical parameters, annual samples, for various types of water supply systems and sources.





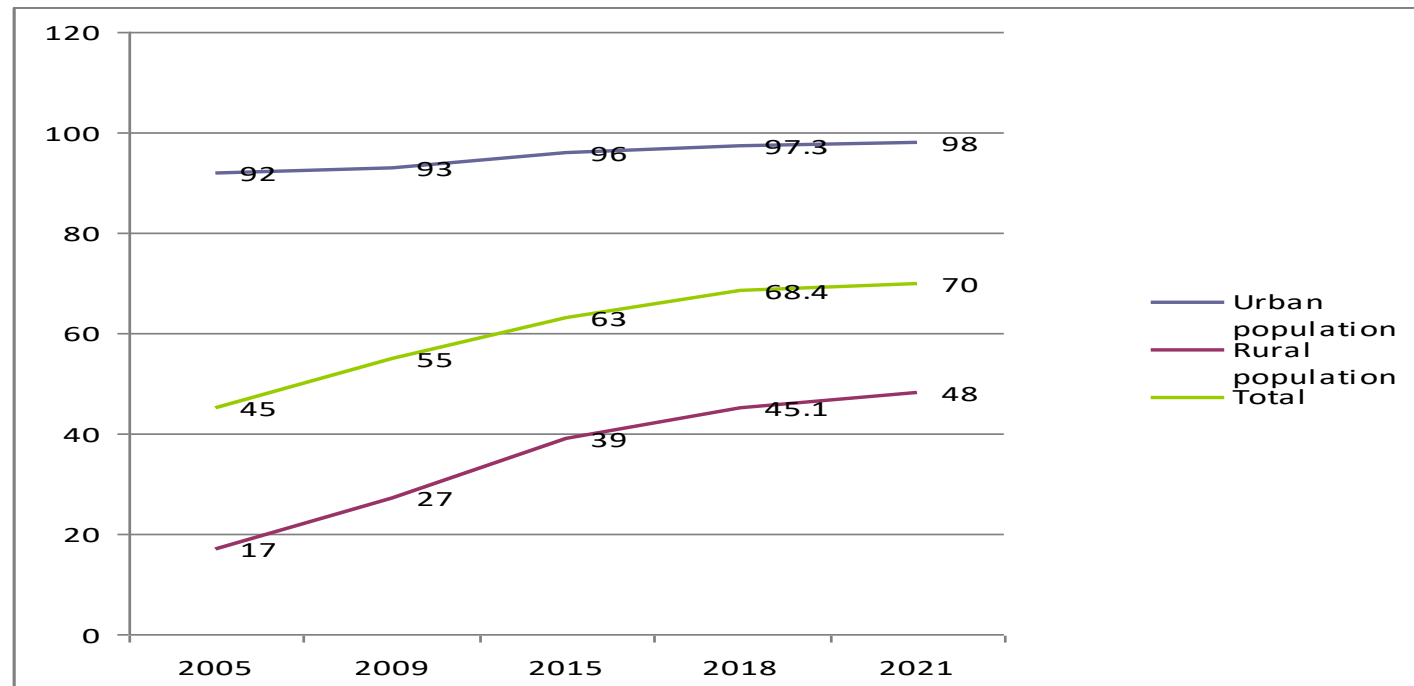
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The evolution of the population's access to water supply services



Importance of ratification of the Protocol to achieve progress in implementation

- Moldova is one of the first European countries to set its national targets for the achievement of the objectives in all areas of competence of the Protocol.
- Moldova is the first European country to approve and implement a National Programme dedicated exclusively to the Protocol;
- Moldova was able to benefit from technical support from several international institutions for the development of the policy and normative framework, from the support of the national policy dialogue in the field of water management, from the possibility of participating in various expert groups for the elaboration guidelines and recommendations at regional level;
- It has become aware of the importance and actively involves the non-governmental sector, of non-commercial organizations in the development of policies, the realization of communication actions and the involvement of communities in the implementation of the Protocol.



Conclusions and recommendations for improving the situation.

1. The National Programme is a basic document for planning medium and long-term strategic actions for the achievement of target indicators.
2. The implementation of the Programme constitutes a national priority with an effect on increasing the level of quality of life and implicitly the state of health of the population.
3. The NGO community was extensively involved in the process, participating in stakeholder meetings and providing comments and proposals.
4. As risks in the implementation of the Programme were identified the insufficiency of the institutional capacities in the territories for the implementation of the measures, the insufficient involvement of some actors responsible for the implementation, the dependence of aquatic resources on climate changes.
5. A priority problem identified is the high level of non-conformity of drinking water quality from underground sources and rural aqueducts, which presents risks for the health.
6. Of the problems identified, the relative slow progress and the large discrepancy between urban and rural populations regarding access to safely managed water supply and sanitation systems are the most significant.

