

# 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



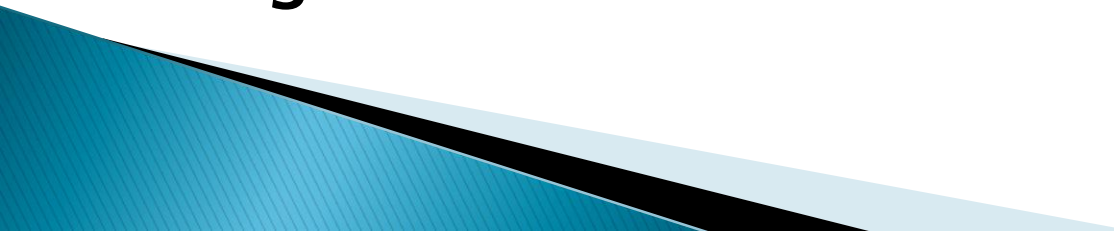
- Water Union of Ile-de-France (water delivery for 149 municipalities) and its operator Veolia Eau d'Ile-de-France



SIAAP

- Paris urban area wastewater treatment authority (Paris, 3 surrounding *departements* → 1980 km<sup>2</sup>)

# 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**
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# Organization of the pilot

- ▶ 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 €/m<sup>3</sup> 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:
    - Difficulty to define the precise study area
    - Large range of data to be collected
    - Numerous stakeholders
    - Time consuming exercise
  - ✓ But provides high accuracy on current situation...
  - ✓ ... and usefull tool for an objective debate
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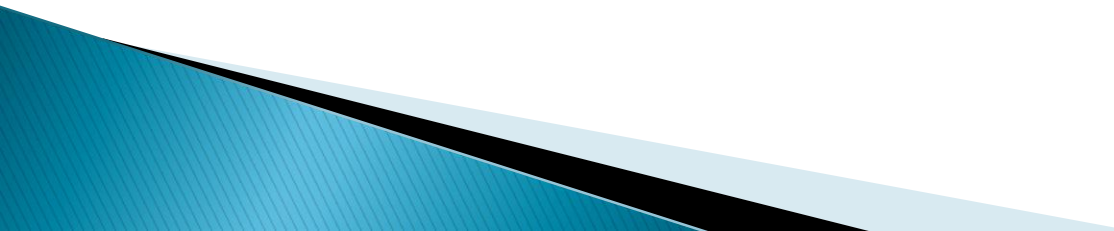
# Defining the study area : working at a subnational scale

- ✓ 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
  - Numerous producers
  - Non homogeneous data in space and in time
  - Difficulty to assess precisely the reliability of data
- ✓ Lack of data for some topics
  - Prisons, schools...
  - Reglementary data but not precise data at the individual scale

# High resolution picture

- ✓ 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
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# Communication tool

- ✓ Allows an objective debate
  - Discussion between stakeholders oriented on
    - The need to produce reliable data
    - Building a common understanding of the situation before giving prebuilt solutions
  - 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
  - Scoring is a collective job

# Conclusions

- ✓ Challenging exercise
  - Too time consuming to produce every year
- ✓ Very precise analysis
  - Allows to focus on main problems for policy makers
- ✓ Different level of analysis between national and regional levels
  - Allows a deeper analysis of access to water and sanitation at regional level
- ✓ First assess the existence of devices and after assess their efficiency