

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Task Force Water &  
Climate  
UNECE Water Convention  
Geneva May 12th, 2010

**The issue of water supply and sanitation in  
adaptation strategy to water cycle change**

**Luciana Sinisi, Italy**

**Chair**

**Task Force Extreme Weather Events**

**Protocol Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention**



# **THIS PRESENTATION**

**-TO SHARE LESSON LEARNED on GUIDANCE DEVELOPMENT :**

- WHY WE NEED IT**
- HOW WE DID IT**
- WHAT DOES THE GUIDANCE ADDRESS**

## **Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather events**

**Task Force Extreme Weather events**

**Protocol on Water And Health to the UNECE Water Convention**

**LEADERSHIP : Italian Ministry of Environment**

**CHAIR: L. Sinisi, ISPRA Italy**

Task Force Protocol W&H mandate:  
Work programme 2007-2009 Protocol Water & Health

A) Share experience on the safe operation of facilities for, and maintenance of adequate, water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situations (e.g. floods and extreme – given prevalent local conditions – temperatures) and develop guidelines to respond to such situations.

B) Develop strategies to satisfy water supply and sanitation needs in the long term, given the potential impacts of climate change and the need for adaptation and mitigation programs.

Further mandate by Joint Bureaux:

**Cooperation with UNECE Task Force Water and Climate**

## **Development of guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events**

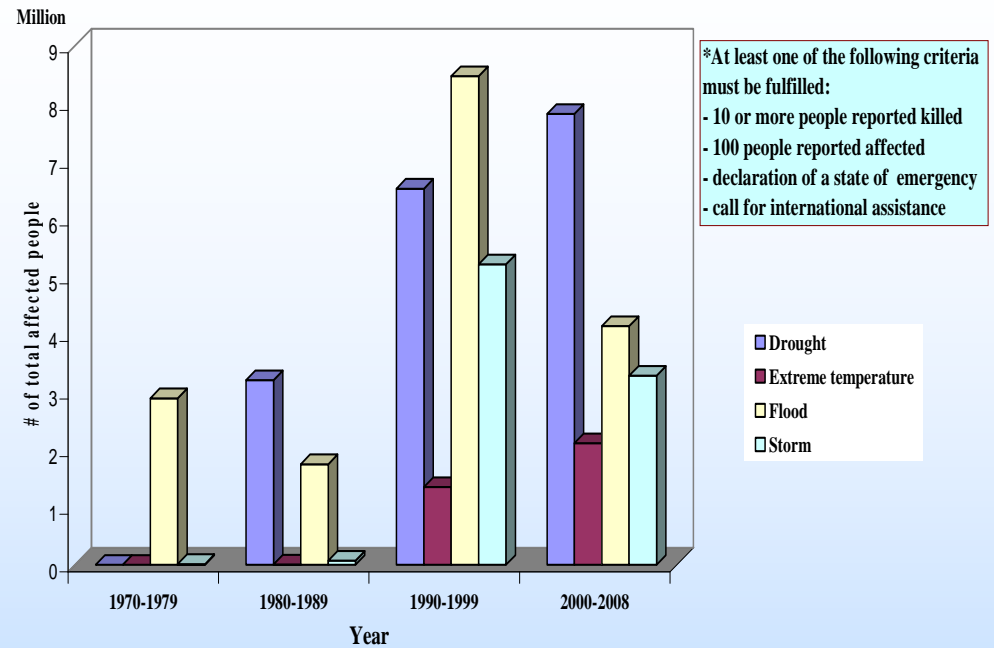
- ⤴ *April 2008 , 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force meeting, Rome*
- ⤴ *October 2008, Madrid – First meeting of the ad hoc Drafting group*
- ⤴ *February 2009 , Rome – Second meeting drafting group*
- ⤴ *May 2009 - 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the guidance to be translated in Russian*
- ⤴ *July 2009 – presentation of the guidance to the Protocol WG Water and Health*
- ⤴ *July – Sept 2009 – Circulation of the draft for comments and review*
- ⤴ *October 2009 – Document discussion at the Second Meeting of the Task Force*
- ⤴ *November 2009 – Presentation Guidance EUWI ECCA meeting, Bucharest,*
- ⤴ *January 2010 – Guidance discussion EUREAU water and climate experts , London*
- ⤴ *March 2010 . Presentation of the Guidance ( working Document) to the Environment and Health Ministerial Conference*
  
- ⤴ *May 2010 – Presentation at Protocol Working Group Water & Health*
  
- ⤴ *30 June 2010 – Deadline for final comments/additions*
  
- ⤴ *Fall 2010 – Final Endorsement 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties ( Protocol)*

# ➤ WHY WE DID IT

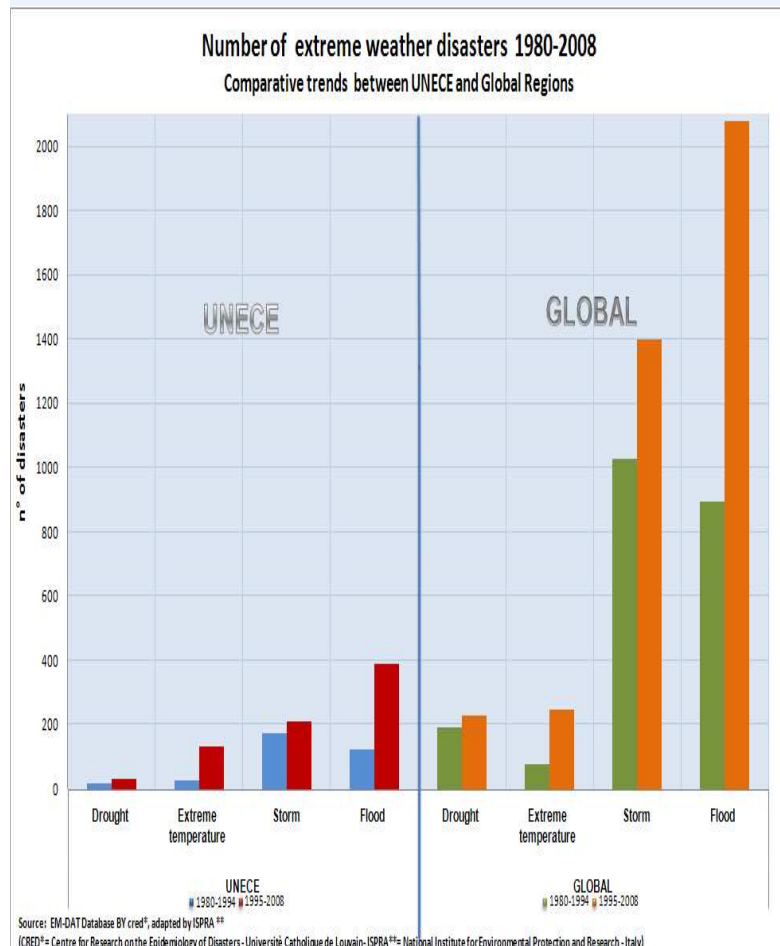


# EXTREME EVENTS are hitting the Region

Number of total affected people by drought, extreme temperatures, flood and storm disasters \* in UNECE Region (1970-2008)



Source: EM-DAT database by CRED\* adapted by ISPRA\*\*  
 \*\*ISPRA= National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research - Italy  
 \*CRED= Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters - Université Catholique de Louvain



## Extreme events in the Region: trends and social impacts

**38 millions of people affected in the past 20ys - disasters ONLY**

# WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION in EXTREMES

- (largely) affects environmental water(s) protection and management policies
- Is a crucial environmental health determinant under climate variability
- high vulnerability of technical performance in extremes, including transboundary impacts
- Is still a main & costly challenge in EU and the Region
- Water & climate challenges are shared with private sector



**It is not just a delivery service issue**

# ➤ HOW WE DID IT





## Looking for partnership in adaptation

1. Integration with IWRM policies & planning on the field
2. Integration with health professionals in adaptation planning  
(*emerging health risk, public communication, vulnerability of health services*)
3. Involvement of utilities managers in disaster preparedness  
(early warning, land use, capacity building, personnel training, Technology investments & choice)

1. IWRM : partnership TF Water & Climate of UNECE Water Convention

2. Health sectors & WHO among contributors

- Emerging health risk management as key issue in adaptation measures

3. UTILITIES managers as main target audience

- Utilities directly involved in drafting, key chapters on adaptation measure

# WHAT DOES THE GUIDANCE ADDRESS



# ADAPTATION VULNERABILITIES & CHALLENGES

## Address management “system” vulnerabilities

## Address risk management issues

- CHALLENGES AWARENESS
- KNOWLEDGE/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER & IMPLEMENTATION
- SUB REGIONAL DIFFERENCIES in CLIMATE VARIABILITY
- EMERGING NEW environment and health RISK
- MANAGEMENT IN EXTREMES:  
e.g. link to IWRM, land use

“ In the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia problems of access to water services are rooted in the history of that Region”

Source: “Financing water supply and sanitation in EECCA Region” Nov 2005, Armenia( OECD, 2005) )

# Guidance structure

- **RISK MANAGEMENT**
- **WSS SYSTEM VULNERABILITY**
- **Environmental vulnerabilities**
- **Utilities management**
- **Health vulnerabilities**
- **Preparedness**
- **Communication and information**

## Three rules management

**IMPROVE WHAT YOU'RE DOING**

**PROTECT WHAT YOU HAVE**

**MANAGE WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE**

## Guidance brochure at 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial E&H Conference – Protocol Day



# **GUIDANCE ON WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION IN EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS**

# CONCLUSIONS

- Recurrent adverse weather events are hitting the Region
- Water quality/availability impacts are strictly linked to WSS
- WSS should be included in adaptative risk reduction strategies and water management adaptation strategy
- Technology transfer and implementation is an urgent issue
- Utilities managers should get involved in the overall process





# WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

**UNDP 2006 Human Development Report (HDR).**

*( more action to realize the MDG 7 target 10 about water and sanitation..)*

**“ Like hunger, it is a silent emergency experienced by the poor and tolerated by those with the resources, the technology and the political power to end it”**

**Thank you**

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