

Assessing equitable access to water and sanitation Experience in Hungary

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4TH MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON EQUITABLE ACCESS

Budapest, 13-14 September 2018

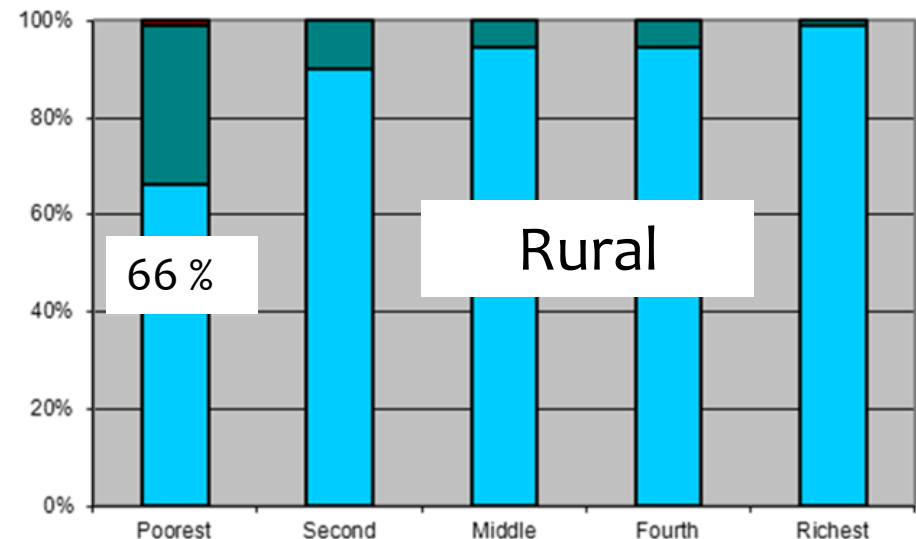
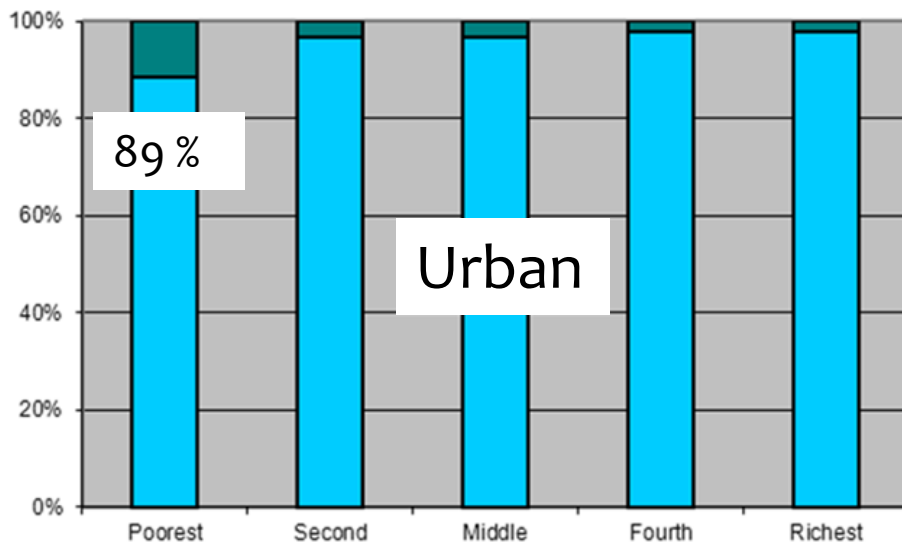
Session 2



Background in Hungary

Access to drinking water

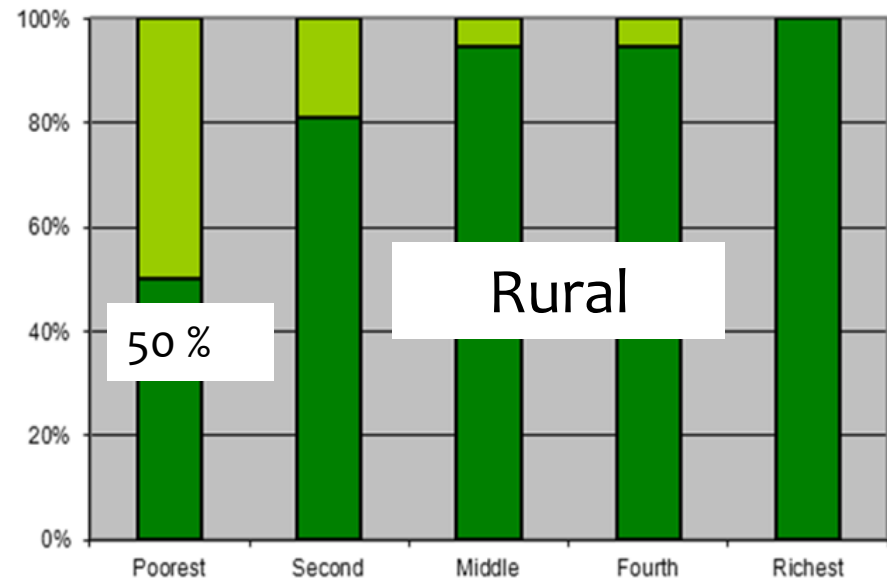
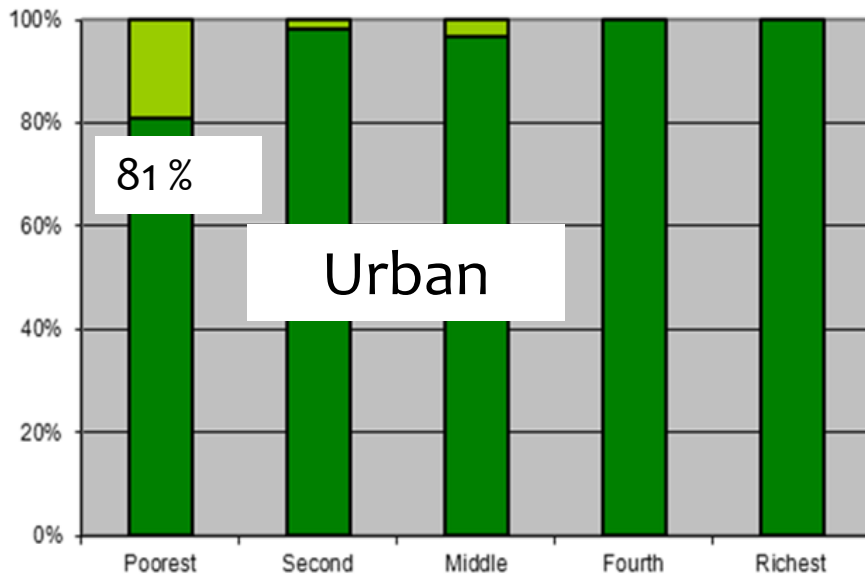
- * Generally considered universal in Hungary (95 %)
- * Large disparities between poorest and richest



Background in Hungary

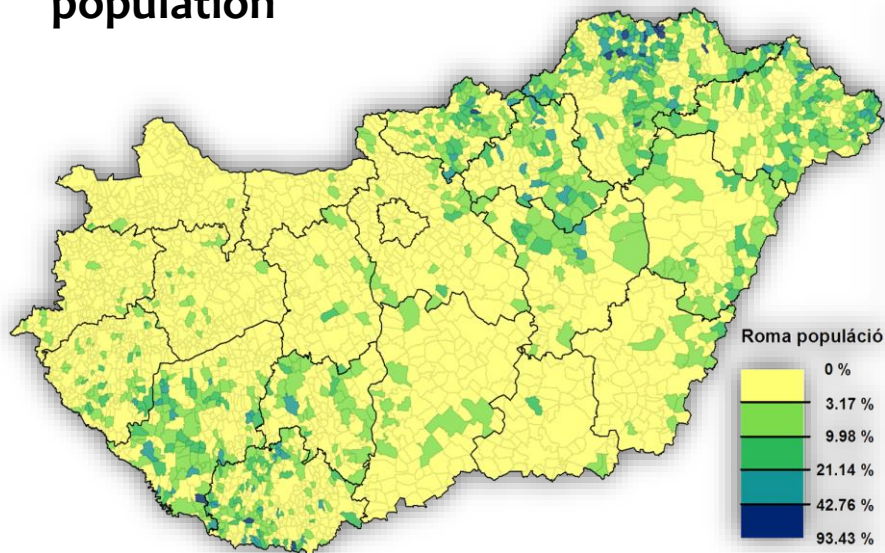
Access to sanitation

* 75 % have access to centralised sanitation services (2013)

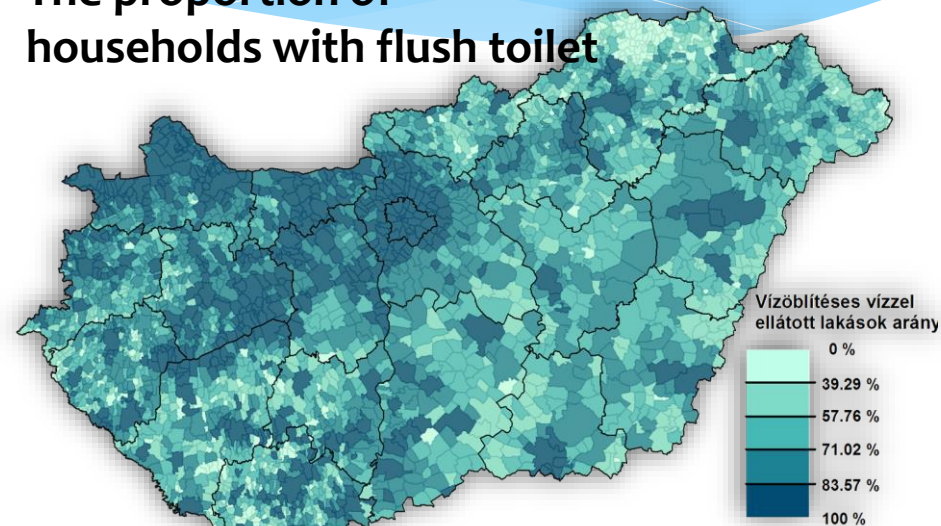


Ethnic disparity and affordability

The proportion of Roma population



The proportion of households with flush toilet



Páldy, 2011

- Water tariff: basic and consumption-equivalent charge
- Residential household cost reduction
- Differences in tariffs on macro-regional level – governmental compensation programmes

Process: Applying the Equitable Access Score-card

- * Lead organization(s): National Public Health Centre
- * Support by: Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, WHO, UNECE
- * Partners:
 - * Ministries: Interior, National Economy, National Development, Human Capacities
 - * Hungarian Central Statistical Office
 - * NGO-s: organisations working for disadvantaged groups, Red Cross
- * Scale of the project: national



Process: Timeline

Activity	Date
Translation of the Scorecard	August 2014
Kick-off meeting	October 2014
Invitation for participation to the ministries	March 2015
Workshop by the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights	May 2015
Data collection	June-December 2015
Closing workshop	March 2016

Outcomes of the assessment: main findings

* The favorable overall situation was confirmed, but..

Data gap

- Number of disconnected residents
- Number of private well users

Legal framework and tariff system

- Definition of „protected consumers” in public utility regulation: paying in instalments, deferred paying
- No social tariffs, no progressive tariffs

Limited provision of water for disadvantaged

- Disconnection
- Distance of public wells

Outcomes of the assessment: main findings

Strategies, programmes

- EU Programmes for utility-development
- Programmes for regional development and housing, municipal subsidies
- Underprivileged have limited access to programmes

Regulation of small-scale private water supply systems

- Not sufficient: operation is not regulated

Recommendations of the closing workshop

Legal framework

- Formulate the right for equitable access to water and sanitation in a single legal act
- Adaptation of the Building Code to reflect the minimum requirements for water and sanitation



Infrastructure

- Policy and financial support for decentralized services where public supply is unavailable
- Maintain public taps

Closing the data gap

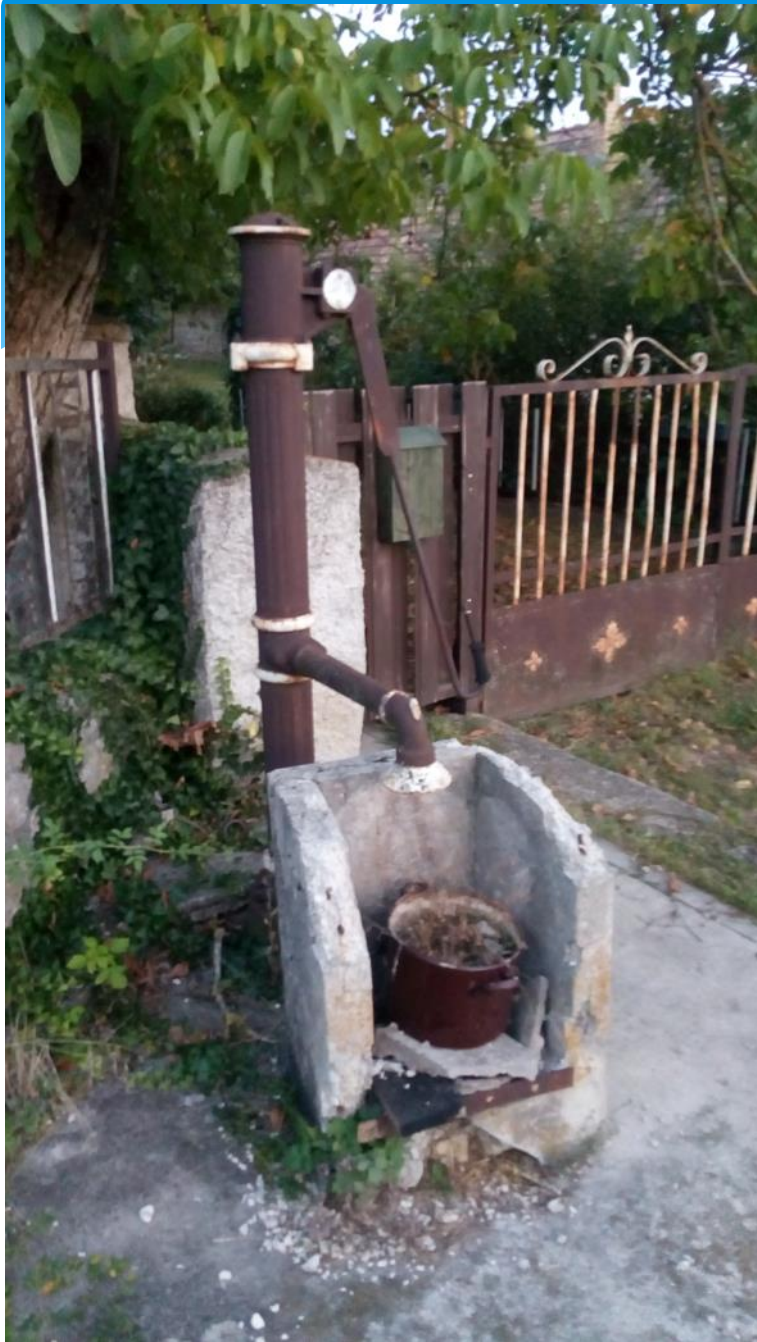
- Research to identify number and distribution of groups living without access, and the reasons behind it.
- Repeat the equitable access assessment in 5 years to track progress

Outcomes of the assessment: lessons learnt from the process

	Process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Great means for bringing equity in W&S on the agenda❖ NGO involvement is important – complements the “national picture” with “local picture”
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Easy to believe that it is a problem already solved❖ Difficult to motivate government bodies

Proceedings

- * Official approval of the report is still pending
- * Several important developments:
 - * Connection to utilities is free (2017)
 - * Regulation of individual private wells
 - * National Water Strategy 2017
 - * Improve tariff policy to ensure equity
 - * Ensuring cost recovery of the water utilities



Thank you for
your attention!