

**Economic Commission for Europe****World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe**

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Water and Health to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Sixth session

Geneva, 16–18 November 2022

Items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the provisional agenda

**Improving governance for water and health: support for setting
targets and implementing measures**

**Assistance to support accession and implementation at
the national level**

Increasing resilience to climate change

Compliance procedure

Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases

Institutional water, sanitation and hygiene

Small-scale water supplies and sanitation

**Safe and efficient management of water supply and
sanitation systems**

**Equitable access to water and sanitation: translating the
human rights to water and sanitation into practice**

Financing of the Protocol on Water and Health

**Programme of work for 2023–2025, terms of reference of
bodies established to implement it and resources needed
for its implementation**

**Overview of contributions and expenditures for the period
2020–2022**

Prepared by the joint secretariat



Summary

The present document contains an overview of contributions and expenditures under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, covering the periods 1 July–31 December 2019, corresponding to the programme of work for 2017–2019 (ECE/MP.WH/13/Add.1–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06/Add.1), and 1 January 2020–31 May 2022, corresponding to the programme of work for 2020–2022 (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.1–EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.1).

The Meeting of the Parties may wish to:

- (a) Endorse the present document on contributions and expenditures under the programme of work for 2020–2022;
- (b) Express its gratitude to Parties and other cooperating States, especially to the lead countries and organizations that have provided human and financial resources to implement the programme of work for 2020–2022;
- (c) Call on the Parties and partners to continue to provide financial support for the implementation of the future programme of work, and to provide such resources without earmarking them, if possible;
- (d) Encourage countries and partners that have not yet contributed to provide financial resources for the implementation of the future programme of work

I. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Protocol Trust Fund

A. Balance on 30 June 2019 (United States dollars)

1. The provisional balance of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Protocol on Water and Health Trust Fund on 30 June 2019 was \$808,307.

B. Contributions from 1 July to 31 December 2019 (United States dollars)

<i>Source of funding</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount^a</i>	<i>Earmarking</i>
Germany	July 2019	22 727	Programme area 1: Target setting and reporting
Germany	July 2019	23 636	5th session of Meeting of the Parties
Finland	Aug. 2019	5 593	Unearmarked
Switzerland	Aug. 2019	51 440	Programme area 1: Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting
Hungary	Sept. 2019	5 000	Unearmarked
France	Sept. 2019	108 802	Programme area 6: Equitable access to water and sanitation
Germany	Nov. 2019	22 222	5th session of Meeting of the Parties
Netherlands	Dec. 2019	22 002	Programme area 5: Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems
Total		261 423	

^a The exchange rate from the currency of the contribution into dollars is calculated on the date of the transfer of funds.

C. Expenditures from 1 July to 31 December 2019 (United States dollars)

<i>Programme of work element</i>	<i>Estimate expenditure</i>		<i>Total expenditure (A+B)</i>
	<i>Expenditure of funds earmarked for Protocol (A)</i>	<i>of funds not earmarked for Protocol (B)^a</i>	
Implementing bodies of Protocol	90 162	3 227	93 389
Programme area 1	6 812	0	6 812
Programme area 2	0	0	0
Programme area 3	0	0	0
Programme area 4	0	0	0
Programme area 5	4 002	0	4 002
Programme area 6	12 092	0	12 092
Programme area 7	0	0	0
Programme area 8	-15 541*	7 947	-7 594
Programme area 9	2 621	0	2 621

<i>Programme of work element</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds earmarked for Protocol (A)</i>	<i>Estimate expenditure of funds not earmarked for Protocol (B)^a</i>	<i>Total expenditure (A+B)</i>
Total cost for activities	100 148	11 174	111 322
Total costs for staff	88 791	51 963	140 754
Programme support costs (13 per cent or 7 per cent)	24 562	4 420**	28 982
Grand total	213 501	67 557	281 058

* Reimbursement of costs for activities under programme area 8.

** Programme support costs for funds not earmarked for the Protocol can be 7 per cent or 13 per cent, depending on the sources of funding, which have different overheads.

D. Balance on 31 December 2019 (United States dollars)

2. The provisional balance of funds earmarked for the Protocol on 31 December 2019 was \$856,229.

E. Contributions from 1 January 2020 to 31 May 2022 (United States dollars)

<i>Source of funding</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Earmarking</i>
Norway	Jan. 2020	29 985	Working Group on Water and Health
Luxembourg	Feb. 2020	6 615	Unearmarked
Germany	Apr. 2020	16 376	Compliance Committee
Hungary	May 2020	8 000	Programme area 6: Equitable access to water and sanitation
Slovakia	June 2020	10 861	Unearmarked
Switzerland	June 2020	51 653	Programme area 1: Target setting and reporting
Estonia	July 2020	840	Unearmarked
Finland	Oct. 2020	5 869	Unearmarked
Germany	Oct. 2020	14 671	Programme area 1: Target setting and reporting
Belgium	Dec. 2020	19 403	Unearmarked
Belgium	Dec. 2020	4 779	Unearmarked
Finland	Dec. 2020	4 779	Unearmarked
France	Dec. 2020	119 474	Programme area 6: Equitable access to water and sanitation
Germany	Dec. 2020	35 842	Working Group on Water and Health meeting, Programme area 1: Target setting and reporting
Netherlands	Dec. 2020	47 790	Programme area 5: Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems
Norway	Dec. 2020	30 000	Unearmarked
Serbia	Dec. 2020	4 779	Unearmarked
Belgium	Jan. 2021	3 066	Unearmarked

<i>Source of funding</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Earmarking</i>
Luxembourg	Feb. 2021	7 282	Unearmarked
Belgium	May 2021	4 843	Unearmarked
Estonia	May 2021	1 211	Unearmarked
Switzerland	May 2021	54 885	Programme area 1: Target setting and reporting
Belgium	July 2021	11 026	Unearmarked
Hungary	Oct. 2021	8 000	Unearmarked
Serbia	Oct. 2021	5 814	Unearmarked
Finland	Nov. 2021	5 734	Unearmarked
Netherlands	Nov. 2021	45 872	Programme area 5: Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems
Russian Federation	Nov. 2021	250 000	Project “Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the programme of work of the Protocol on Water and Health”
Finland	Dec. 2021	4 505	Unearmarked
France	Dec. 2021	68 807	Programme area 6: Equitable access to water and sanitation
Germany	Dec. 2021	50 676	Working Group on Water and Health meeting, Programme area 9: Compliance Committee meeting
Norway	Dec. 2021	30 000	Unearmarked
Luxembourg	Mar. 2022	6 742	Unearmarked
Total		720 175^a	

^a In April 2022, the Russian Federation, as a donor, requested the suspension of all meetings, seminars and other events; thus, the contribution is not included in the total of the contributions table and balance calculations.

F. Expenditures from 1 January 2020 to 31 May 2022 (United States dollars)

<i>Programme of work element</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds earmarked for Protocol (A)</i>	<i>Estimate expenditure of funds not earmarked for Protocol (B)^a</i>	<i>Total expenditure (A+B)</i>
Implementing bodies of Protocol	84 869	0	84 869
Programme area 1	67 904	0	78 472
Programme area 2	0	0	0
Programme area 3	0	0	0
Programme area 4	0	0	0
Programme area 5	12 269	0	1 701
Programme area 6	66 949	52 000	118 949
Programme area 7	0	24 000	24 000
Programme area 8	466	10 585	11 051
Programme area 9	17 196	0	17 196

<i>Programme of work element</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds earmarked for Protocol (A)</i>	<i>Estimate expenditure of funds not earmarked for Protocol (B)^a</i>	<i>Total expenditure (A+B)</i>
Total cost for activities	249 653	86 585	336 238
Total costs for staff	580 127	240 188	820 315
Programme support costs (13 per cent or 7 per cent)	107 871	22 874	130 745
Grand total	937 651	349 647	1 287 298

^a For more information, please see paras. 3–4 below.

3. ECE staff supporting the Protocol were also co-funded by the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) for some joint activities and activities related to the joint promotion of the Protocol and the Water Convention. In addition, the Water Convention fully financed the Global workshop on building climate resilience through improving water management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels, organized jointly under the Convention and the Protocol with partners (Geneva (hybrid), 29–31 March 2021).

4. Where objectives coincided, the National Policy Dialogues under the European Union Water Initiative provided significant financial support to promote the work under the Protocol until July 2021, including co-funding of staff, consultancies, travel and meeting logistics costs, in particular with regard to the target setting and revision processes in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, with funding from the European Union Water Initiative Plus programme. Furthermore, ECE staff working on the National Policy Dialogues programme contributed a share of their time to implementing in-country assistance activities. However, this source of funding is not any more available in the future.

5. ECE used United Nations regular budget resources to support the work under the Protocol, including for: staff salaries (0.3 of a regular budget post at P-4 level, approximately \$244,000 for the three years); conference costs, including interpretation, for meetings held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva (approximately \$137,523); editing and translation of official documents (approximately \$200,000); and production of publications (approximately \$126,398), in particular for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019) and other meetings held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.¹

6. The United Nations Development Account financed a consultancy under programme area 7 “Increasing resilience to climate change”.

7. The period 2020–2022 has been marked by the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which significantly affected the implementation of activities under the Protocol in 2020 and 2021. From March 2020 onwards, intergovernmental meetings under the Protocol were held online or in a hybrid mode, with some being postponed. These developments led to decreased expenditures in 2020 and 2021, in particular regarding activities such as travel, but this cannot be considered as representative of the trend in the evolution of the Protocol.

8. ECE has mobilized additional limited financial resources for the implementation of some activities of the current programme of work as of June 2022 and for the next work programme 2023–2025 from the United Nations Development Account within the ECE project “Food-water-energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa”. Those funds are not included in the current report and mainly cover activities, with very limited financial resources for staff time.

¹ Estimates based on the United Nations 2022 standard costs for conference space, services, publishing and documents.

**G. Balance on 31 May 2022
(United States dollars)**

9. The provisional balance of the ECE Protocol Trust Fund on 31 May 2022 was \$638,753, which is significantly lower than the balance set aside at the end of the previous triennium.

10. This is a great concern considering that as of August 2021, ECE hired an additional staff, at P1 level. It should be noted that the programme of work adopted by the Meeting of the Parties foresaw the inclusion of an additional P4 to service the Protocol. However, due to lack of resources, the additional staff was hired at a lower level. This reinforcement of the secretariat was necessary to adequately carry out activities in the programme of work and proved fundamental during the period of maternity of the main staff in ECE responsible for the Protocol. Approximately 400,000 USD are needed for extrabudgetary staff salaries in 2023. As the balance of the ECE Protocol trust fund has further decreased since May and no other major contributions from which staff can be paid are pledged until end of 2022, there is a risk that some of the ECE staff contracts working on the Protocol cannot be extended for the entire year 2023.

**II. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe
voluntary fund**

**A. Balance on 30 June 2019
(United States dollars)**

11. The provisional balance of funds earmarked for the Protocol in the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe voluntary fund on 30 June 2019 was \$274,339.

**B. Contributions from 1 July to 31 December 2019
(United States dollars)**

<i>Source of funding</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount^a</i>	<i>Earmarking</i>
Hungary	Aug. 2019	5 593	Unearmarked
Netherlands	Oct. 2019	32 823	Programme area 5
Total		38 416	

^a The exchange rate from the currency of the contribution into dollars is calculated on the date of the transfer of funds.

**C. Expenditures from 1 July to 31 December 2019
(United States dollars)**

<i>Programme of work element</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds earmarked for Protocol (A)</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds not earmarked for Protocol (B)</i>	<i>Total expenditure (A+B)</i>
Implementing bodies of Protocol	19 007	15 301	34 308
Programme area 1	0	0	0
Programme area 2	51 991	79	52 070
Programme area 3	39 509	72 776	112 285
Programme area 4	0	0	0
Programme area 5	7 467	7 852	15 319
Programme area 6	0	0	0

<i>Programme of work element</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds earmarked for Protocol (A)</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds not earmarked for Protocol (B)</i>	<i>Total expenditure (A+B)</i>
Programme area 7	0	0	0
Programme area 8	0	0	0
Programme area 9	0	0	0
Total cost for activities	117 974	96 008	213 982
Total costs for staff (pro rata estimate)	0	182 633	182 633
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	15 337	36 223	51 560
Grand total	133 311	314 864	448 175

12. In addition to funds earmarked for the Protocol on Water and Health, the WHO Regional Office for Europe mobilized funds from other sources to ensure continuity and support for the implementation of the programme of work for 2017–2019. Other sources during the reporting period included voluntary contributions from Germany and WHO-assessed contributions to cover activities, staff salaries and travel.

D. Balance on 31 December 2019 (United States dollars)

13. The provisional balance of funds earmarked for the Protocol on 31 December 2019 was \$179,444.

E. Contributions from 1 January 2020 to 31 May 2022 (United States dollars)

<i>Source of funding</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Earmarking</i>
Estonia	Jan. 2020	1 618	Reimbursement of costs
Norway	Mar. 2020	40 000	Unearmarked
Germany	Apr. 2020	3 821	Reimbursement of costs
Finland	May 2020	21 834	Unearmarked
Netherlands	Oct. 2020	71 685	Unearmarked
Norway	Dec. 2020	40 000	Unearmarked
Hungary	Mar. 2021	10 886	Unearmarked
Finland	Aug. 2021	23 781	Unearmarked
Czechia	Sept. 2021	23 267	Unearmarked
Netherlands	Nov. 2021	60 891	Programme area 5
Norway	Dec. 2021	40 000	Unearmarked
Estonia	Dec. 2021	1 663	Reimbursement of costs
Hungary	Mar. 2022	5 252	Unearmarked
Total		344 698	

14. In addition to funds earmarked for the Protocol on Water and Health, the WHO Regional Office for Europe mobilized funds from other sources to ensure continuity and support for the implementation of the programme of work for 2020–2022. Other sources during the reporting period included voluntary contributions from Germany and WHO headquarters, as well as WHO-assessed contributions to cover activities, staff salaries and travel.

**F. Expenditures from 1 January 2020 to 31 May 2022
(United States dollars)**

<i>Programme of work element</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds earmarked for Protocol (A)</i>	<i>Expenditure of funds not earmarked for Protocol (B)</i>	<i>Total expenditure (A+B)</i>
Implementing bodies of Protocol	5 883	81	5 964
Programme area 1	0	0	0
Programme area 2	30 818	66 109	96 927
Programme area 3	55 262	109 166	164 428
Programme area 4	1 766	0	1 766
Programme area 5	42 482	24 250	66 732
Programme area 6	0	0	0
Programme area 7	2 592	253	2 845
Programme area 8	0	0	0
Programme area 9	0	0	0
Total cost for activities	138 803	199 859	338 662
Total costs for staff	2 973	723 001	725 974
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	18 431	119 972	138 403
Grand total	160 207	1 042 832	1 203 039

15. The period 2020–2022 has been marked by the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which significantly affected the implementation of activities under the Protocol in 2020 and 2021. From March 2020 onwards, intergovernmental meetings under the Protocol were held online or in a hybrid mode, with some being postponed. These developments led to decreased expenditures in 2020 and 2021, in particular regarding activities such as travel, but this cannot be considered as representative of the trend in the evolution of the Protocol.

**G. Balance on 31 May 2022
(United States dollars)**

16. The balance of funds earmarked for the Protocol on 31 May 2022 was \$363,935.

III. Direct contributions by Parties to the activities in the Protocol's programme of work

17. The present section summarizes direct and in-kind contributions by Parties and other partners to the activities in the Protocol's programme of work. It is difficult for the joint secretariat to become aware and keep track of all contributions, especially Protocol-related activities at the national level. Therefore, the list below should not be considered comprehensive and exhaustive.

18. The following contributions were provided in the reporting period:

(a) Germany provided direct and in-kind contributions to programme area 4, specifically in relation to the development of the publication *Costing and financing of small-scale water supply and sanitation services*;²

(b) The WHO Collaborating Centres at the German Environment Agency, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, the University of Bonn (Germany), the

² Copenhagen, World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, 2020.

University of Surrey (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and the KWR Water Research Institute (Netherlands) provided in-kind contributions to programme areas 1–5;

(c) Switzerland provided a direct contribution to programme area 1, specifically by requesting and financing the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology to prepare the draft regional report on the status of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2022/5-EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2022/MOP-6/11), which contains a comprehensive overview and analysis of the 35 summary reports submitted under the fifth reporting exercise of the Protocol (2021–2022);

(d) France (in 2020) and Germany (in 2022) provided support for the work under the Protocol through the provision of a Junior Professional Officer for the ECE secretariat;

(e) Several countries supported accession to the Protocol by other non-Parties; for example, Belarus organized a dedicated online event to promote accession by Commonwealth of Independent States countries in April 2020.
