



Progress in the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 and future priorities

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6 APĂ CURATĂ
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The National Program for the implementation of the Water and Health Protocol in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025 was approved in order to improve the quality of life of the population and access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation by planning the necessary measures to ensure the achievement of the target indicators of the Water and Health Protocol .

In this sense, *the objectives of the Program* were oriented towards the integration of water and health priorities to the Protocol with the national processes in the Republic of Moldova for planning actions in the sectors of water supply, sanitation , hygiene and health , other areas with reference to the Protocol for achieving the target indicators established therein.

Thus, *the general objective of the Program* was focused on reaching the target indicators of the Protocol for the 20 fields (stipulated in annex no. 1 to the National Program) until 2025 , emerging from the competences and responsibilities of the Republic of Moldova .



Annually, the Ministry of Health, with the support of the Ministry of the Environment and other authorities, generated and sent to the Government progress reports on the degree of achievement of the National Program for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025.

In this sense, in these reports the level of achievement of the specific objectives (presented in Annex no. 2 to the National Program) was assessed, the progress in the implementation of the target indicators for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health was noted.

Thus, the most significant progress was recorded in the aspects related to the development and implementation of the normative framework related to the field.



In this regard, we can mention the adoption and implementation of the following normative acts:

- 1) Law 182/2019 on the quality of drinking water which created the regulatory framework in the field of ensuring the quality of drinking water,
- 2) HG no. 442 of 01.07.2020 which completed the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy for the years 2014-2028 (HG 199/2014), extending its period until 2030, with a new action plan for 2020 -2024.
- 3) HG 651/2023 for the approval of the Sanitary Regulation on the supervision and monitoring of the quality of drinking water, which provides for the application of the principles of assessment and risk management from the hydrographic basin to the domestic distribution system at the consumer's tap

At the same time, progress was also recorded in the field of implementing water and sewage infrastructure projects (implemented with the support of national funds and external donors), including in the field of ensuring access to school and preschool institutions to safe sources of water, sanitation and hygiene.



Prevention of waterborne diseases



In the Republic of Moldova, in the years 2016-2023 , there were no outbreaks of priority infectious diseases conditioned by water , such as cholera, typhoid fever, viral hepatitis A, EHEC .

In the Republic of Moldova , there is also a downward trend in the incidence (number of cases per 100,000 population) of some infectious diseases, potentially conditioned by water (2023 compared to 2016):

- Including 10 by rotaviral infection,
- Twice by Giardia and Cryptosporidiosis,
- legionellosis was registered,
- The exception is the incidence of viral Hepatitis A, which has not changed essentially, and the infection has a cyclical character



Prevention of waterborne diseases



During the mentioned period, several activities were completed:

- Guidelines on the epidemiological investigation of outbreaks caused by diseases caused by unsafe water and food,
- Carrying out laboratory investigations at the ANSP for the detection of the SarsCov2 virus in wastewater. Although it is already demonstrated that the given virus is not transmitted through water, these investigations are necessary to assess the circulation of the virus in the human population,
- Approval of the National Guide for the development of Drinking Water Safety Plans. With the support of external partners, 2 model plans were developed, taken over by other operators. Over 100 PSAs have been developed so far, the process continues,
- The development of a Guide on the development and implementation of a mixed drinking water and sanitation safety plan is initiated, according to the new WHO recommendations,
- Initiation of a study on the prevalence of dental fluorosis in localities with high fluoride in drinking water.



Drinking water quality surveillance data



According to the National Program, the target indicators were set to reduce the share of drinking water samples that do not comply with microbiological parameters - 5% for urban aqueducts and 10% for rural aqueducts.

According to the analysis of the water quality monitoring results, these target indicators were only partially achieved, including 25% of 55 urban aqueducts, mainly those fed from surface sources, where systematic disinfection is carried out, and only 7% of 840 rural aqueducts, especially due to the state of the networks and the lack of systematic disinfection.

Another target indicator is the reduction below 25% of the weight of non-compliant water samples for 5 parameters (F, NO₃, NO₂, As, Fe, Pb) – it was reached for 75% of urban aqueducts and 53% for rural ones.

For the purpose of a more detailed assessment of the situation, the Register of underground sources used for drinking water supply by administrative units was developed.



Current priorities regarding the implementation of the National Program for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova



Planul Național "Construim Moldova Europeană" 20 de Acțiuni Governamentale

Misiunea Guvernului este să modernizeze localitățile, să garanteze securitatea cetățenilor, să contribuie la creșterea veniturilor și crearea de locuri de muncă bine plătite.



1



Modernizarea orașelor și satelor

2



Eficientizarea energetică a clădirilor

3



Apă curată și
sanitație

4



Modernizarea
drumurilor și
podurilor

5



Digitalizarea
serviciilor publice

6



Implementarea
Programului Național
de Împedure

7



Securizarea
frontierelor
Republicii Moldova

8



Modernizarea
Armatei Naționale

9



Majorarea
finanțării pentru
fermieri

10

373

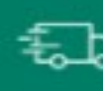
Susținerea
întreprinderilor mici
și mijlocii ("373")

11



Reducerea
birocrației pentru
antreprenori

12



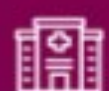
Creșterea
exporturilor agricole
către UE

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Confiscarea averilor
dobândite ilegal

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Spitale regionale
renovate

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Promovarea
procurorilor și
judecătorilor integri
și profesioniști

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Servicii accesibile
pentru diasporă

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Sistem de asistență
socială reformat

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Crearea Institutului
Național pentru
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Eliminarea corupției
din instituțiile
statului

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Aderarea la UE către
anul 2030



Current priorities regarding the implementation of the National Program for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova



As a priority activity in the continuation of the implementation of the National Program of the Water and Health Protocol in the Republic of Moldova, it is its correlation with the national strategic policy documents, such as:

- the National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030" approved by Law 315/2022
- the National Development Plan 2023-2025 approved by Government Decision no. 89/2023
- the National Plan "Building European Moldova" 20 Governmental actions,
- the Government's activity program "Prosperous, safe and European Moldova", approved by Parliament Decision no. 25/2023
- the National Climate Change Adaptation Program until 2030, approved by Government Decision no. 624/2023





Barriers regarding the implementation of the National Program for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova



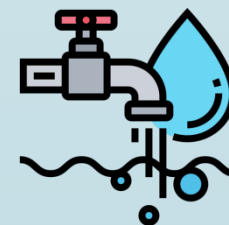
- Insufficient financial resources, underdeveloped absorption capacities especially for the implementation of infrastructure projects
- Insufficient human and technical capacities of operators, especially in rural areas to ensure efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems
- The need to strengthen institutional capacities at local and national level
- Not clear establishment of the duties of all the authorities involved (the division of powers between the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development on aspects related to management in the field of water supply and sanitation infrastructure).



Water and sanitation



- ▶ Access to safe water and sanitation services in the Republic of Moldova is defined mainly by housing location, residence and household income. Thus, rural households, and those with a modest or no income, have on average two times less access to water and sanitation compared to urban households with higher incomes.
- ▶ According to the data provided by the National Ecological Fund, during the years 2016-2021, water supply and sanitation projects were implemented in 177 localities in the Republic of Moldova, which represents a fifth of all the localities in the Republic of Moldova.

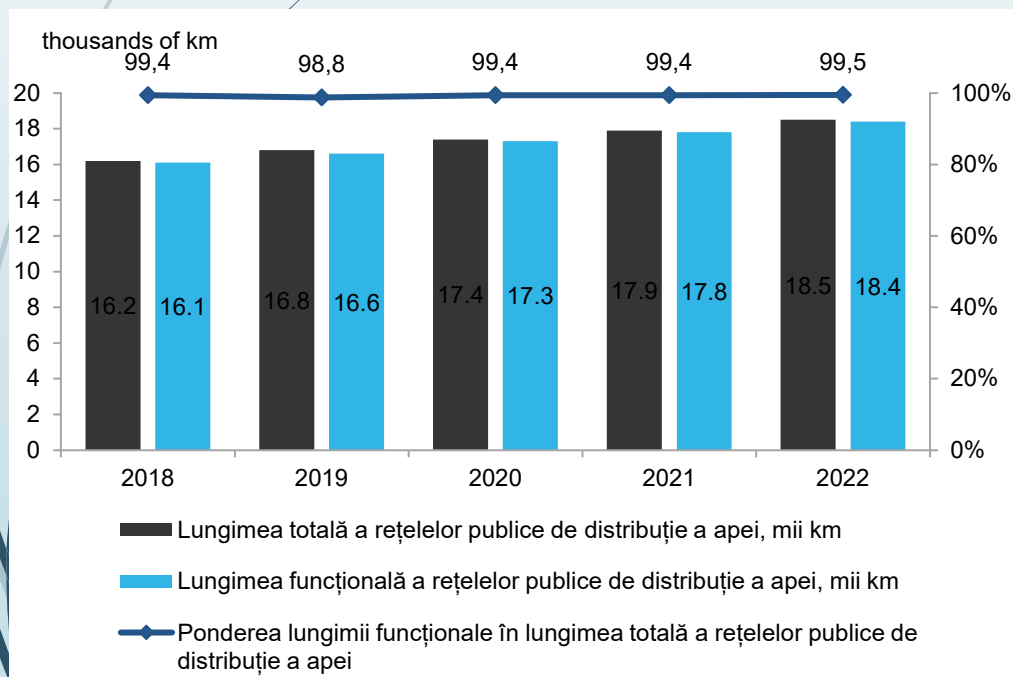




Water and sanitation



According to the data of the National Bureau of Statistics (<https://statistica.gov.md>), annually works are carried out for the rehabilitation, modernization and expansion of public water supply systems. In this sense, if in 2016 the total length of water distribution networks was 13,300 km, then in 2022 18,500 km of aqueducts and public water distribution networks were actually operating, which constitutes 99.5% of the total length of systems put into operation.



In 2022, 55 municipalities and cities and 891 localities had access to public water supply systems, which represents 61.7 of the country's localities. Also, about 60.3% of the villages of the Republic of Moldova had access to drinking water supply from public systems, which denotes a considerable increase compared to the reference year 2016.



Water and sanitation



- Also, out of all the localities with access to public water supply systems, 907 have public water supply systems in operation. Compared to 2018, the number of localities with access to public water supply systems put into operation increased by 12.8%.
- The number of localities with access to public water supply systems in 2022 increased by 181 compared to 2016, of which 852 are for rural areas, and 55 for urban environment.

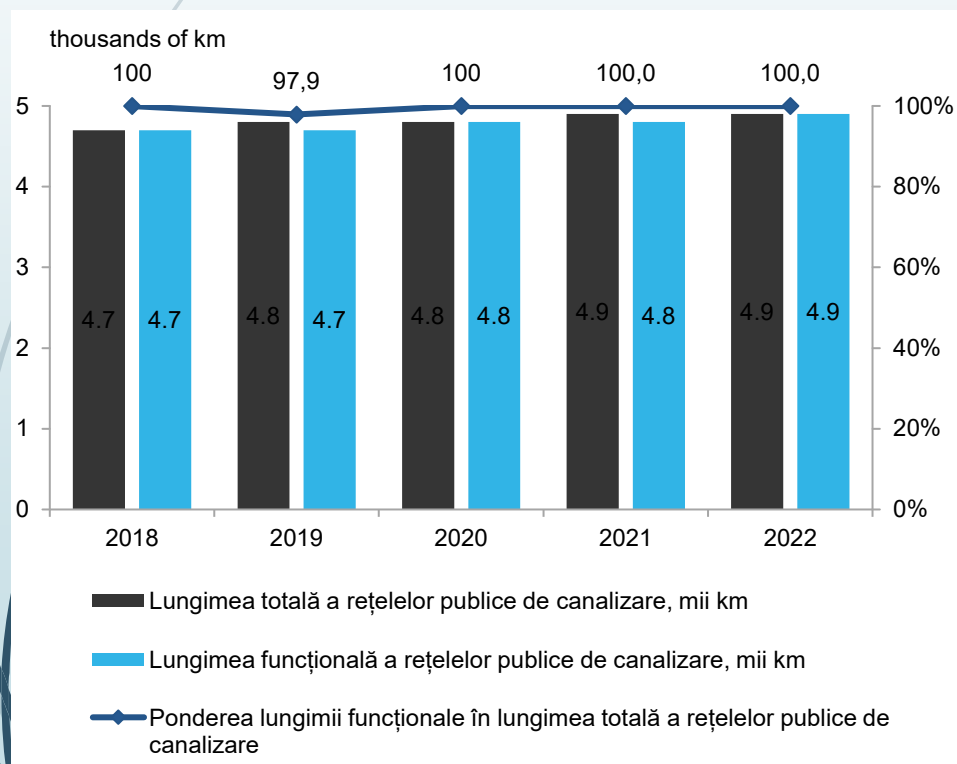




Water and sanitation



With reference to public sewerage systems, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2022, the total length of public sewerage networks was 4,900 km, or 2,000 km more than in 2016 (2,900 km).



At the same time, in 2022, 53 municipalities and cities and 89 rural localities had access to public sewerage systems, which represents 9.3% of the country's localities.

Out of the total number of localities with access to public sewerage systems - 142 localities, 132 have public sewerage systems put into operation (3 of these localities, in addition to the system put into operation, also have a system that is not put into operation). Thus, compared to 2018, the number of localities with access to public sewerage systems in operation increased by 19.0%, which indicates a positive trend of facilitating the population's access to improved sanitation services.



Water, sanitation and hygiene in educational institutions



According to the National Program, ensuring compliance with drinking water quality, access to safely managed water supply and sanitation systems in 100% of institutions by 2025 are established as target indicators.

According to the situational analysis carried out, we find that the water quality is non-compliant with the chemical parameters in 45% of the school institutions and in 18% of the institutions with the microbiological parameters (mainly in small rural schools)

Access to aqueduct networks is ensured in 98% of institutions, to sanitation systems - 78% of cases

In 2023, the National Coordinating Council in the field of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in schools was established and operates effectively, which works quite efficiently, with several activities being implemented related to the self-assessment of the situation in school institutions, the improvement of the normative framework, the attraction of investments and the implementation of projects to modernize the infrastructure, to develop institutional capacities.

The Republic of Moldova is a country as a co-leader in the field of activity "Water, sanitation and hygiene" in institutions within the Protocol on Water and Health at the regional level.



Water and sanitation



- ▶ With reference to ensuring access to safe sources of water, sanitation and hygiene in school and preschool institutions, we note that at the moment the Ministry of Education and Research in partnership with UNICEF and other donors are going to implement projects in 125 institutions, in which the conditions will be improved of sanitation and hygiene, of food equipment and services, sanitation and hygiene practices (infrastructure). Also, within the interventions, measures related to the development of the necessary materials/workshops for the promotion of training, training and capacity building programs are provided (based in particular on the promotion of hygiene practices, menstrual hygiene, the correct use of sanitary blocks).
- ▶ Also with the support of the World Bank Project "Security of water supply and sanitation in the Republic of Moldova", 17 school institutions were selected for the implementation of water and sanitation projects, and at the moment they are in the process of developing and coordinating the technical documentation for them.





Public awareness activities regarding water, sanitation and hygiene



- Publication of the national report on the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health is ensured every 3 years, the last one – in 2022.
- Public Health, an Information Center is established within the Protocol on Water and Health, which ensures the distribution of communications and materials regarding the quality and safety of drinking water, the regulatory framework in the field, access to improved water and sanitation systems, regarding communication activities.
- In 2022, the first National Conference in the field of Water and Health was organized at ANSP, the materials being published in the magazine "One health".
- Developed and approved in a.2023 the didactic material on water, sanitation and hygiene within the school curriculum for the subject Education for Health.
- A national communication campaign on hygiene at institutional and community level is being initiated in 2024 with the support of the International Federation and the National Society of the Red Cross.



Prerequisites for revising the targets and developing a new National Program



- Completing the normative framework at national and international level with normative and policy documents, including:
 - HG no. 442 of 01.07.2020 which amended the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy for the years 2014-2028 (HG 199/2014), extending its period until 2030, with a new action plan for 2020-2024 .
 - GD no. 953 / 2022 regarding the approval of the national framework for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (which includes the collection and reporting of 18 national indicators - 1 per domain and 17 per domain 6)
 - GD 624/2022 for the approval of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program of the PM until 2030, where water resources are addressed as a priority area,
 - The adoption at international level by the WHO of the Acceleration Framework Guide in the field of hand hygiene, which provides for the development of specific national targets in this field,
 - Global epidemiological processes, such as the COVID-19 pandemic between March 2020 and May 2023, with a devastating effect on national economies and health systems, highlighted the importance of ensuring access to water, sanitation and hygiene as a prevention factor,



Prerequisites for revising the targets and developing a new National Program



- The decisions adopted at the 6th Meeting (MOP6) of the parties to the Protocol in November 2022 regarding ensuring compliance with obligations under the Protocol.
- The aspects listed impose the need to review and adapt the national targets to the current context, as well as the need for the continuity of the Program, by initiating the development of a new national program in the field until 2030.
- Given that the National Program for the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025 is in the final period of action and validity, a process is currently being initiated to develop a situational analysis regarding the degree of its implementation.

In the framework of this analysis, both the progress and the impediments in achieving some objectives and targets will be highlighted and the corresponding recommendations regarding the basic provisions in the framework of a new program will be submitted.



Thank you for your attention!!!

