The Protocol on Water and Health: International Cooperation and Action

R. Aertgeerts

www.euro.who.int/watsan
AGENDA

• Water resources
• Water and health
• Policy evolution
• Protocol on water and health
• Work plan 2004-2005
A World of Salt
Total Global Saltwater and Freshwater Estimates

Saltwater
97.5%
1 365 000 000 km³

Freshwater
2.5%
35 000 000 km³

0.3% Lakes and river storage
30.8% Groundwater, including soil moisture, swamp water and permafrost
68.9% Glaciers and permanent snow cover

Population Density per International River Basin

AGENDA

• Water resources
• Water and health
• Policy evolution
• Protocol on water and health
• Work plan 2004-2005
Every day, diarrhoeal diseases cause some 6,000 deaths.

In China, India and Indonesia, twice as many people die from diarrhoeal diseases as from HIV/AIDS.

In WHO EURO, 268 children die of diarrhoeal diseases daily.
MALARIA

- Endemic in 100 countries.
- Annually
  - Over 300 million cases of acute illness
  - 1 million deaths
- Exists in Europe
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

- Medium Human Development and Low Income: 12%
- Medium Human Development and Medium Income: 34%
- High Human Development and Medium Income: 9%
- High Human Development and High Income: 45%
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH
1970 - 2000

[Graph showing life expectancy trends from 1970 to 2000 for EU average, CCEE average, and NIS average.]
PROBABILITY OF DYING BEFORE AGE 5
SDR DD, below 5, per 100000

Region: CAR, EU, NIS, CEE, Nordic

SDR

0.00 50.00 100.00 150.00 200.00
MALARIA IN EUROPE

Registered, locally transmitted
MALARIA INCIDENCE CAR

Malaria incidence, /100,000 both sexes

Year

Incidence


UZB TUR TJK KYR KAZ
MALARIA INCIDENCE w/o TJK

Malaria incidence - TJK

Incidence: 0.00 1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 5.00
UZB, TUR, KYR, KAZ
EMERGING PROBLEMS

Giardia

Cryptosporidium
WHO GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Guidelines for drinking-water quality
SECOND EDITION
Volume 2
Health criteria and other supporting information

World Health Organization
AGENDA

• Water resources
• Water and health
• Policy evolution
• Protocol on water and health
• Work plan 2004-2005
POLITICAL CONTEXT

- UNICEF PLAN OF ACTION 1999
- 3rd MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE 1999
- UN MILLENNIUM DECLARATION 2000
  - halve the proportion of people without access to safe water
  - Reduce the SDR in children by 2/3
  - Halve the scourge of malaria
  - Significantly improve the lives of 100m slum dwellers
• WSSD 2000
  – Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation
• UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2002
  – Water is an independent right
• International Year of Freshwater 2003
• WWF 2003
  – Demand management and other actions to augment available water supply
AGENDA

• Water resources
• Water and health
• Policy evolution
• Protocol on water and health
• Work plan 2004-2005
PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

• Aim: holistic approach to preventing, controlling, and reducing water-related disease
• International cooperation and support
• 36 Countries signed, 8 ratified
• Entry into force in 2004
• Working Group on Water and Health
• Country interventions
PROTOCOL EXAMPLE

• Priority: drinking water quality and supply management
• Problem: step-wise implementation of the Protocol and the EU Drinking Water Directive
PRESENT STATUS

• Water supply 3 hrs every morning
• Major leakage and frequent breaks
• Pressure sufficient for 1\textsuperscript{st}, sometimes 3\textsuperscript{rd} fl
• Good quality at exit of production plant by bad quality at consumer
• Heavily subsidised with collection rate 5-7%
• Total income too low to prevent further decay
FINDINGS

- Methodology for measuring bacteriological quality not consistent with current requirements.
- Frequency of monitoring not adapted to the problem.
- 12 – 25% of samples not compliant with EU Directives.
- 84% of sampling points showed contamination.
HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

- 1997 – 1998: 1902 cases of diarrhoea
- 450 cases of dysentery
- Under-five SDR from diarrhoeal diseases:
  - 1998 – 14.02
  - 1999 – 11.96
  - 2000 – 2.63
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Assessment of the present state of water quality management incl. laboratories
• Provision of equipment and material to perform analysis
• Establishment of new monitoring procedures
• Local water quality management plans prepared
• Specific targets at different admin. levels
OTHER EXAMPLES

- Multi-country programme on gastrointestinal diseases in central Asia
- MEDPOL
- Aquatic and clinical microbiology
- Laboratory assessment and strengthening
- Water quality assessment, incl. recreational water, groundwater, historical pollution assessment
- Strengthening national legislation
AGENDA

- Water resources
- Water and health
- Policy evolution
- Protocol on water and health
- Work plan 2004-2005
WORKPLAN 2004 - 2006

• Surveillance of water-related diseases
• WHO JMP Water supply and sanitation
• Health risks in managing water resources under conditions of water stress/scarcity
• Enclosed recreational water environments
• Bilateral and multi-lateral support
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

• 4TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH (BUDAPEST, HUN, 23 – 25 JUNE 2004)
• MINISTERIAL DECLARATION
• CHILDREN AND ENVIRONMENT HEALTH ACTION PLAN
THANK YOU