

Implementation of Targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in Moldova

Final Report on the External Review, 30 November 2015



Acknowledgments

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Executive Summary

The present External Review covers the Project “Implementation of Targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova”. The Project’s objective was to contribute to the frame conditions and adequate capacity of national and local authorities, as well as water operators and water users associations in Moldova in implementing measures towards the water and health targets set in Moldova under the Protocol on Water and Health (PWH).

The objectives of the External Review were to critically assess the relevance of the given Project, review its achievements, and to propose potential areas of intervention and modalities of a possible follow-up project. Therefore, the national and international context of the water supply and sanitation domain, as well as of the health domain, the intervention strategy and the implementation modality were analysed, mostly through a desk review and exploratory interviews with key stakeholders. The main outcomes of the Review are:

- **Context:** The PWH is considered a strategic framework to streamline water, sanitation and health targets into national and sub-national planning instruments, thereby bearing potential to improve coordination and joint-planning between the involved ministries. However, in the case of Moldova the draft National Program with its Action Plan and Resource Mobilization Plan in their present form seems of limited added benefit to existing strategies and planning instruments. The Action Plan focuses on mobilizing additional resources and not on providing a comprehensive picture what needs to be done to achieve a certain target and which measures are funded and which are not.
- **Intervention strategy:** The Project covered a large set of outputs related to capacities (trainings, awareness raising, policy dialogue), planning instruments and regulations. The outputs showed positive but also mixed results. The broad set of outputs combined with a limited Project budget over the period of 3.5 years resulted in limited Project achievements vis-à-vis the Project outcome which can only be achieved in a mid- to long-term timeframe.
- **Implementation modality:** The improved collaboration between the Ministries of Health and of Environment as well as between district-level public health and water sector authorities and utilities at district level due to trainings, but also the participatory approach and local ownership are laudable. The absence of an effective Project-level steering mechanism was a missed opportunity for discussing and aligning different expectations of SDC and UNECE.

The Review team recommends building upon positive achievements of the Project e.g. by streamlining health targets into SDC-funded water supply and sanitation projects, supporting the development of a national water safety plan strategy, promoting hygienic practices at (pre)school level, and increasing demand for rural sanitation through district-level centres for public health. These activities offer multiple opportunities for the Clearing House established under the PWH to increase its relevance and activities but also to involve the national Focal points under the PWH in a targeted way.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Protocol on Water and Health (PWH) to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes is a legal instrument adopted in 1999 to ensure the adequate supply of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for everyone. It does so by linking water management and health issues. The PWH was ratified by the Republic of Moldova in 2005.

The cooperation between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Moldova Office and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) started in 2009 with the development of water and health targets in the Republic of Moldova as stipulated by Art.6 of the PWH. The second phase of the Project "Implementation of Targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova" started in July 2012 and was planned to end by the end of December 2015 (total 42 months). Its objective is to contribute to the frame conditions and adequate capacity of national and local authorities, as well as water operators and water users associations in Moldova to implement measures towards the water and health targets set in Moldova.

The Project's budget of CHF 920'510 (second phase) was funded mainly by SDC (83%) as a contribution to UNECE for implementing the project. UNECE and the Government of Moldova financed the remaining amount through financial or in-kind contributions.

1.2 Review Objectives

The Review team was mandated by the Swiss Cooperation Office, Representation of the Embassy of Switzerland to Moldova (SCO-M). This External Review focuses on the second phase of the Project planned to be implemented between July 2012 and December 2015. The Review objectives as set out by the Terms of Reference are to:

- Critically assess the relevance of the given project and review its achievements so far in comparison with the set objectives
- Propose potential areas of intervention and modalities of a possible follow-up project taking into account the strategic objectives and programmatic priorities of SDC

1.3 Methodology

This Review responds to the questions in four parts, reflecting the review objectives:

- Analyse the national and international context in the water supply and sanitation (WSS) and health domains in Moldova as well as SDC's strategic priorities and project portfolio. The opportunities and threats/ risks are identified. --> chapter 2.1

- Analyse the relevance of the intervention logic, and analyse the effectiveness and achievement of activities / outputs realized related to the objectives. The strengths and weaknesses are identified. --> chapter 2.2
- Analyse the relevance and effectiveness of the implementation modality chosen for project implementation. The strengths and weaknesses are identified. --> chapter 2.3
- Develop recommendations on possible objectives, intervention logic and modality for an eventual follow-up SDC project in Moldova. They are ideally based on current strengths of the intervention strategy, implementation modality and the external opportunities. Risks and mitigation measures based on combinations of current weaknesses of the intervention strategy, implementation modality and the external threats. --> chapter 3

The review follows a qualitative assessment methodology, taking into account different individual opinions and own judgements on the questions at hand.

In line with the Terms of Reference, the Review team conducted a systematic analysis of the relevant reports and documents through a desk review, exploratory interviews with key informants during the Review mission in Moldova including briefings with SCO-M, supplementary interviews in Geneva and via Skype, and developed recommendations in close collaboration with SCO-M.

The consultant team was not able to interview representatives from the Ministry of Environment (MoE) during but only before and after the Review mission, and neither to interview all sub-consultants contracted by UNECE under this project responsible for single Project outputs e.g. output 1 on the action plan. The list of interviewed individuals and their organizations is shown in Annex A3. The reviewed documents correspond to those in the Terms of Reference; additional sources are referenced as footnotes.

2 Findings

2.1 Context Analysis in the WSS and Health Domains

2.1.1 SDC Portfolio

The activities of SDC in Moldova in the WSS domain over the last years mainly include:

- Provide technology and management solutions for rural water and sanitation models through the SDC-funded *ApaSan* project, turning the focus towards their nation-wide replication in its on-going third phase
- Leadership in WSS sector coordination, contribution to the National WSS Strategy 2014-28 with the *ApaSan* model
- Contribute to the development of national targets under the PWH and support establishing frame conditions and capacities to implement the targets under the PWH, implemented by UNECE Geneva
- Support of the water supply system rehabilitation project in the Rayon *Nisporeni* district through a contribution to Austrian Development Aid (ADA)

- Small Grants Programme, focusing on proposals which build upon acquired experiences, synergies with SDC's portfolio but excluding long-term projects and proposals which risk duplication/ competition with governmental responsibilities
- Sporadic exchanges through the regional Res'EAU, used as knowledge platform within the SDC's Global Water Program Initiative

The currently on-going and planned SDC portfolio in the WSS domain includes mainly the following three projects:

- *ApaSan* Phase 3 (final phase), focus on transferring the know-how and good practices to Moldovan institutions via a mix of capacity development and joint implementation of WSS projects (4 years, mCHF 7)
- Institutional strengthening project, focusing on improving the steering and management of the sector by strengthening the performance of key sector institutions via better sector coordination, development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans, development of a Water Information System (4 years, mCHF 5)
- Co-funding of programme "Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova" (MLPS) with GIZ in the lead, SDC with thematic focus within WSS sector, through regional planning agencies under the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MoRDC) (3 years, mCHF 3.9)
- Co-funding EU/ADA project of rehabilitation of the water supply system in the municipalities of *Nisporeni*, *Varzaresti* and *Grozesti* (5 years, mCHF 2.9)

In the health domain SDC primarily focused on improving access to health care services for rural population and vulnerable groups, institutional capacities and regulatory framework in the health sector. The currently on-going health related projects in the SDC portfolio are:

- Improving access to health care services of vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities through the Red Cross programme contribution East 2015 – 2016 (2 years, mCHF 1.9)
- Strengthening governance and policy dialogue in the health sector (3,5 years, mCHF 2.7)
- Improving health of young men and women through increasing the demand, accessibility and utilization of quality youth friendly services and health-related education programme through the Youth Friendly Health Services project (4 years, mCHF 4.8)

2.1.2 National and International Context

The most relevant national and international policies and programmes in the water and health domains - except the PWH which is analysed separately below - include the following:

- Several relevant sector policies i.e. WSS Strategy (see box), Environmental Strategy, Strategy for Public Health, all with their own action plans and assigned responsibilities.
- National Action Plan (2014-2016) regarding the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement with sectorial action plans including deadlines. The primary objective is the gradual approximation of Moldovan legislation towards EU legislation. The Directives in the WSS domain which are mentioned in the Action Plan and are interrelated with the PWH are

the EU Water Framework Directive, the Urban Waste Water Directive, and the Drinking Water Directive.¹⁾

- European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) and its main operational instrument National Policy Dialogue on Water Policy in Moldova, sponsored by the European Commission (DG ENV) and implemented by the UNECE and the OECD/EAP Task Force.²⁾
- Bilateral TA in WSS mainly by GIZ, ADA, Swiss, US, EU, Czech and Romania; investment programs mainly by EBRD, EIB and KfW.

An overview of the institutional framework in Moldova in the WSS and health sectors is provided in Annex A2.

2.1.3 Protocol on Water and Health in Moldova and related SDC Support

The Protocol on Water and Health (PWH) to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes is a global governance mechanism hosted by UNECE/WHO. It is an instrument to promote human rights to water and sanitation services and to protect human health and wellbeing by better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases through target-setting and reporting on progress in the pan-European region.

The PWH serves to bridge the water and health domains and their governmental/ non-governmental institutions, by jointly setting targets through a participatory process and jointly working towards them, also by building upon cooperation and assistance between the parties through international cooperation (Art.11) and international support for national action (Art.14). The UNECE mechanisms e.g. the Working Group on Water and Health allows to share experiences at workshops in the region.

The targets under the PWH (Art.6) are meant to orientate different national policy processes and to impact on a number of strategic, regulatory and planning instruments of the health and water and sanitation sector. Such targets also have impacts on other government domains such as finances, economy or education.

Moldova ratified the PWH in 2005. It seems that one reason for the Government in doing so was the hope to access more international support in the WSS and health domains by signing and ratifying the PWH.

1) The *EU Water Framework Directive* aims to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies of EU member states. It is a framework in the sense that it prescribes steps to reach the common goals. It promotes an integrated water resources management approach (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy).

The *EU Urban Waste Water Directive* aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors. It requires collection and treatment of wastewater in all agglomerations of >2'000 population equivalents (p.e.) and more advanced treatment for agglomerations >10'000 p.e. in designated sensitive areas and their catchments (Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment).

The *EU Drinking Water Directive* aims to protect human health from adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean (Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption).

2) See www.euwi.net or <http://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/partnership-eu-water-initiative-euwi.htm#EUWI> [accessed on 25 Nov 2015]

Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy 2014-2028

The Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Strategy 2014-2028 adopted in March 2014 was renewed in the context of the EU-MD association agreement and is driven by the urgent need to develop the country's water and wastewater infrastructure in order to comply with EU regulations. The Strategy refers to the PWH as a relevant international agreement but does not establish a link between the Strategy objectives and the targets set under the PWH. Strategy implementation costs are estimated to be EUR 2.04 billion for the period 2014-2028.

The Strategy's specific objectives are to (i) decentralise public water supply and sanitation services, (ii) expand the centralised water supply and sanitation systems and increase the access of population to these services, and (iii) promote market economy principles and attract private capital. Measures to achieve it are:

- Strengthening legal framework and institutional capacities in the WSS sector, e.g. it foresees the National Agency for Energy Regulation (ANRE) to become the WSS sector regulator, including tariff setting
- Developing the WSS infrastructure in rural areas
- Improvement of WSS services through creation of regional WSS service companies under an operating license
- Developing of Information Management System (IMS) for strategic investment programming

The Strategy also includes an Action Plan for the period 2014-2018 with 30 outputs including implementation deadlines (many in 2015) and assigned budget.

The targets and target dates of the WSS Strategy are partly very ambitious e.g. point 3.6 of the Action Plan (assure urban wastewater treatment according to the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive) which foresees rehabilitation of 29 WWTPs and the construction of 20 new WWTP by 2018. The foreseen monitoring of the Strategy's implementation seems still weak e.g. no reports by the inter-ministerial coordination group - led by the MoE – in charge for monitoring and reporting were published since 2014, and no annual conferences to engage with and inform civil society on progress and challenges in implementing the Strategy were organized since 2014.

SDC's support to the implementation of the PWH in Moldova started in 2009. For SDC, the PWH was seen as an instrument and entry point for SDC in Moldova to enhance their already established sector coordination and policy dialogue at a high political level, improve the coordination between the health and environmental sector, and support the Government to comply with an international agreement. It was also the leading role of Switzerland in the PWH bodies, namely in the *Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting* led by Switzerland since its establishment in 2007 that contributed to this engagement. Further it was Moldova that in 2008 proposed the first project through the *Project Facilitation Mechanism*, a body set up under the PWH to help mainstream international support for national action to implement the PWH. SDC's support to Moldova so included two distinct phases:

- The first phase in Moldova concluded in a list of 34 targets and the related target dates which were adopted by a joint order of Ministers of Environment and Health on 20 October 2010.
- The second phase was a direct continuation of the first phase, aiming at elaborating an Action Plan to meet the PWH targets set under the first phase, and improving frame conditions and build capacity to implement measures towards water and health targets set under the PWH.

One of the main outputs of the second Project phase is the National Program to implement the targets set under the PWH in Moldova for 2015-2025 which includes a five-year Action Plan and a Resource Mobilization Plan for the first five years i.e. the period 2015-2020.³⁾

This National Program went into a first ministerial consultation in October 2015, whereby three ministries expressed their support and three requested modifications. The Ministry of Finance for example criticized that the Action Plan is not complying with the requirements of a governmental act, that the economic-financial justification of expenditures is incomplete, and that the financing through the national funds (FEN and FNDR) is not sufficiently justified based on established procedures of these funds.

The analysis documented in chapter 0 reveals a limited relevance of this Action Plan and the related Resource Mobilization Plan. Specifically, it has a limited added benefit to the already existing, large set of sectorial strategies and their related planning instruments, such as the WSS Strategy, Environmental Strategy, Public Health Strategy, EU-Moldova Association Agreement, Regional Sectorial Strategies for North, Centre and South Regions of Moldova, or the Rayon Sector Strategies like the *Ialoveni* District Master Plan on WSS which was developed with SDC support.

The Moldovan practice and the Swiss support for its obligations under the PWH were discussed and seen in a positive light during international conferences or working group meetings related to the PWH. The Action Plan specifically was also seen as a possible tool to streamline both national investments in the water and sanitation sector and the assistance received from bilateral donors. According to UNECE the idea of having an Action Plan to work towards the targets under the PWH was adopted by Norway to plan and act towards the targets set under the PWH in Norway.

2.1.4 Summary on Context

Opportunities

- PWH is an internationally binding agreement instrumental to promote the human rights to water and sanitation, it provides a basis for setting binding targets with regular reporting requirements.
- PWH is a strategic framework to streamline and merge water, sanitation and health targets into national and sub-national planning instruments e.g. by promoting health-oriented outcomes in water and sanitation programmes. At national level, the PWH bears potential to improve coordination / joint-planning between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the MoE.
- The targets set under the PWH include references to EU legislation mentioned in the EU-Moldova association agreement e.g. the Directive on Urban Wastewater Treatment.

3) According to national legislation there are four types of policy documents: Concepts, Strategies, Programs or Plans. A Program serves as a tool for implementing policies and contains clearly defined objectives, necessary resources, pre-established target groups and deadlines (Order of the Cabinet of Ministries "On the rules for development and unified requirements for policy documents", Nr.33 of 11 January 2007, paragraph 10, see <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=319904&lang=1>) [accessed on 25 Nov 2015]

Other opportunities beyond the PWH directly are:

- EU-Moldova association agreement sets firm targets on legislative approximation; however its progress depends on political support.
- The recently updated WSS Strategy has integrated SDC's rural WSS model promoted through the *ApaSan* project.

Threats

- PWH offers a limited added benefit to existing sectorial strategies and their related planning instruments i.e. the relevance of the inter-sectorial and multi-year Action Plan developed under the PWH seems questionable.
- Synergies between the PWH activities and SDC's portfolio is weak (WSS domain) or completely absent (health domain).

Other threats beyond the PWH directly are:

- Lack of strategy on roles and responsibilities of governmental institutions, between the MoRDC and the MoE or within the MoE where responsibilities are not clearly defined and conflict of interests exist e.g. Agency *Apele Moldovei*.
- Lack of continuity of technical and high-level personnel in key governmental institutions, negatively impacting on institutional memory and increase of its capacities.
- Political crisis impacts on decision-making and follow-up on commitments and ownership of ongoing and planned projects.

2.2 Intervention Strategy

2.2.1 Relevance of Intervention Strategy Design

The project's *outcome* ("frame conditions and adequate capacity in place for national and local authorities as well as water operators and water users associations") is very relevant to achieve the *overall goal* ("improved access to safe water and sanitation, reduced water-related diseases and a protected environment") as institutional capacities in terms of planning and coordination, enforcement capacities as well as technical capacities have been identified as main short-coming of the WSS sector in various occasions.⁴⁾ The project outcome by its design requires a large number of complementary activities to achieve tangible results in terms of improved access.

The requirements to achieve the outcome are well reflected in the comprehensive set of project *outputs* i.e. planning instruments, capacity building, regulatory framework, public awareness, and policy dialogue. The project design does not specifically focus on targeted outputs. With a large set of different outputs and an outcome which can only be achieved in a mid- to long-

4) Koenig, Peter & Isac, Andrei (2011): Assessment of Water Sector Institutional Framework in the Republic of Moldova, November 2013.

term timeframe, the project with its limited budget over the period of 3.5 years was designed to have a limited contribution towards its outcome.

The design of the project intervention logic is closely linked to the obligations Moldova has to fulfil under the PWH. As such, the project not only contributes to the framework conditions of national and local actors in Moldova (project outcome) but also to establishing processes and systems promoted by UNECE in their capacity of joint-host of the PWH e.g. the stakeholder steering committee meetings (output 7) or the regional policy dialogue (output 8).

The project outputs focus on capacities through trainings, dialogue and on development of planning instruments and regulations. By design such a project design results in less tangible outcomes compared to projects which for instance have an infrastructure component.

2.2.2 Effectiveness and Achievements of Activities and Outputs

Output 1 - Action Plan

The initially planned Action Plan was decided to be integrated into a National Program in order to embed it into a proper strategic approach and thereby increasing its (formal) binding character by adding the situation analysis including baseline assessment for each of the defined targets, objectives, measures and required resources, and implementation modalities. The draft Program now includes an Action Plan (Annex 2) and a Resource Mobilization Plan (Annex 3) for the first five years of the Program.

The National Program was developed with inputs from both ministries under the lead of the MoE and with expert inputs from an international consultant contracted by UNECE. There were two international experts involved, according to MoE the contributions of the one involved since 2013 was very limited. The UNECE points out that his comments triggered revisions of the draft document by the national expert group but that his input was limited in comparison with the international expert initially involved due to the fact that he was not fluent in Russian so he could not liaise directly with the Moldovan stakeholders.

The objective of the Action Plan is to outline the measures and related resources required to achieve the targets set under the PWH. Unfortunately, the Action Plan does not include all measures which are relevant for achieving the targets set under the PWH. According to the former Focal Point for the PWH at the MoE, activities which are already funded were excluded to avoid duplication. From this point of view, the Action Plan does not provide a comprehensive picture on the on-going/ funded/ planned measures which contribute to achieve the targets nor does it provide a gap analysis showing what is being done and what still needs to be done to achieve the targets. The Action Plan is also of limited use for the reporting purposes mandatory under the PWH (Art. 7) every three years.

Instead, the Action Plan is suited for mobilizing financial and other resources (see Output 2) as for most - if not all - of the measures the financial resources necessary for its implementation are

not yet secured. It also recalls non-funded measures such as the measure "develop action plan on regionalization of WSS operators" which is also a measure proposed by the Action Plan of the WSS Strategy.

The measures are assigned to one specific target but it is not always clear if or why the measure is relevant for that specific target.

The Action Plan was sent to ministerial consultation after 39 of 42 Project months (see feedback from ministerial consultation in chapter 2.1.3).

Output 2 - Resource Mobilization Plan

The methodology and the process how the Resource Mobilization Plan (RMP, Annex 3 to the National Program) was developed are not documented in the National Program. Paragraph 225 refers to the application of cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis, however it is unclear what this means in the context of cost estimations without any apparent prioritization of measures. Further, the RMP ideally would propose for each measure how it could be funded (sources, loan/grants, time frame) and what other resources and frame conditions are necessary. However it contains no such information.

As the feedback of the Ministry of Finance illustrates (see chapter 2.1.3), the development of the RMP was not sufficiently aligned with the Ministry of Finance and will now have to be revised accordingly to get the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

Overall, the RMP at its current state seems of highly questionable use for both financial resource planning and for mobilizing funds from both governmental and international financing sources. The Ministry of Finance has requested its revision which will require considerable time and resources.

Output 3 - Trainings

Trainings were appreciated by participants, especially the sound facilitation by IWA members from Romania and the PWH Focal Points. Topics of the trainings were on operation and maintenance for water utilities, on the EU Drinking Water and Waste Water Directives, and mainly on the Water Safety Plan (WSP) concept and application. Also the study tour to *Iasi* in Romania is perceived as useful by the interviewed participants, the topics on general operation of utilities and regionalization experiences are linked to some of the PWH targets.

However, based on the feedback of the participants the trainings seem to have left little impact beyond the understanding of the concepts by the individual participants. For instance the development and application of WSP at water utility level will likely require further capacity building efforts at the utility level as well as WSP becoming a regulatory requirement.

On the WSP topic, in parallel WHO organized trainings in cooperation with the PWH Focal Point at the national Centre for Public Health (CPH) with public health professionals as target group.

The Association of Water and Wastewater Utilities AMAC organized trainings for utility staff on operational matters including water quality and operational safety issues.⁵⁾ Although the PWH Focal Point at the national CPH insists that these trainings are all complementary, there seems to be potential for a more strategic approach towards developing and implementing WSP at the application level (utility or water user associations) by strengthening the trainings' level of penetration, improving coordination between different financing sources and by working towards regulatory framework conditions which make WSP or other risk-based concepts mandatory.

Further, until recently there was a practically inexistent collaboration between the UNECE and *ApaSan* project in terms of training coordination, especially regarding focusing on rural communities where trainings could complement and yield more concrete benefits. In 2015, WHO started discussing with *ApaSan* project management on the questions how WHO could complement infrastructure interventions with "WASH at school" trainings and how it could support piloting of WSP in *ApaSan* projects on the local level.

Output 4 - Norms and Code of Practices

Norms for small water supply systems and codes of practices for constructed wetlands and *eco-san* toilets were drafted. They are considered relevant. However, the adoption of these norms and related codes of practice is still in the process and it is unknown at this point whether and when the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MoRDC) will transpose the norms into the legal framework. The subsequent spread, application and enforcement of the norms and codes of practice have been addressed by the project only superficially. The implementation of these norms and codes of practice is considered a big challenge since necessary capacities are often lacking.

Output 5 - Clearing House

The Clearing House for the PWH was legally established by ministerial order 91/704 in October 2010 and physically set-up within the national CPH in Chisinau. Its role was specified by an order in October 2013 which includes monitoring and reporting on the progress towards the targets, information of the public on the PWH, collaboration and communication with authorities and civil society to work towards the PWH, and organize trainings for NGOs, water operators, journalists and other interested groups on the PWH.⁶⁾ The idea of a Clearing House is also related to Articles 7 and 10 of the PWH and to the targets set under the PWH in Moldova.

There is little sign that the Clearing House has taken on a relevant role in gathering, channelling and publishing information, in providing information to government authorities, civil society of general public upon request, or undertaking relevant activities.

5) see http://amac.md/obrazovanie/Module_crestere_a_capacitatilor/main_ro.html [accessed on 23 Nov 2015]

6) Order 91/704 of 11 October 2013 by the National Centre of Public Health, including the regulation of the Clearing House.

- There were only sporadic events or meetings held with the support of *Eco-Tiras* e.g. a briefing for journalists a few discussions with NGOs.
- Little interaction possibilities between the Clearing House and the public are established e.g. via its website or via social media, and the physical accessibility and the opening hours of the Clearing House within the national CPH are limited.
- Data on water quality is published annually by the national CPH. Further, data on water quality and drinking-water quality compliance is regularly and since many years published in a water magazine by an environmental NGO. Data on water quality and drinking-water quality compliance is given to this NGO by the Clearing House (previously simply directly by the National Centre of Public Health).⁷⁾
- The institutional integration of the Clearing House within the national CPH and the assignment of a more relevant and visible role for health-related communications may be improved. According to the Focal Point at the national CPH, the Clearing House interacts with the press secretaries at the Ministry of Health and at the national CPH which have their own, established responsibilities to disseminate information to the general public. Further, there is currently no apparent link with the already established Aarhus Centre in Chisinau⁸⁾; the Project document stated that setting up this linkage was a “very important consideration”.

Overall, the performance of the Clearing House is unsatisfactory with regard to the objectives assigned by the ministerial order of October 2013.

Output 6 - Public Awareness Activities

Activities conducted over-performed quantitatively the targets set in the project design, however the targets were little ambitious: the relevant indicator states three activities per year as the target. Knowledge about the purpose and benefits of the PWH for the Moldovan population is very limited, even water professionals seem not to be clear about what it is. Further, it seems that the activities under the PWH did reach a very limited number of people.

Eco-Tiras organized activities all over the country with a focus on youth as targets groups and based on their established network. This network to a large degree builds upon *Eco-Tiras*’ involvement in transboundary water projects.

However, the involvement of a wider NGO community beyond their own network was weak in this Project which resulted in a low visibility of the Project among NGOs and through typical media channels e.g. social media.

The means of communication e.g. leaflets and the communication channels could have been improved. On one side key messages of the relatively abstract PWH may have been better translated e.g. refer to the key issue of right to water and sanitation, or pointing out with a sketch or examples the combination of water and health, rather than listing the Project outputs on a flyer.

7) The magazine *Revista Apelor* publishes various information related to water resources management and water resources quality at the national level, brings various points of view of competent public authorities, water operators, scientists, and NGOs on a vast range of environmental issues which affect the water resources.

8) An Aarhus Centre in Chisinau and a Public Environmental Information Centre in Bender, Transnistria, were opened in 2013 under OSCE leadership and in coordination with UNECE. For the operational establishment of Aarhus Centres, the Environment and Security Initiative ENVSEC was important; its major donors between 2003 and 2011 were Finland, Canada, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, and Norway (see <http://www.envsec.org> > “About Us” [accessed on 23 Nov 2015]).

On the other side, lot of promotional materials seem to have been produced in 2015 by *SEAM* which replaced *Eco-Tiras* in summer 2015. It is unclear why these materials were produced almost at the end of the Project process.

Output 7 - Policy Dialogue and Decision-making Platform for the PWH

The policy dialogue was established through the so called Steering Committee meetings held in Chisinau at which regularly 40-50 persons participated, with a series of presentations on issues relevant to the PWH i.e. about on-going activities financed by the Project or other sector activities e.g. donor landscape, investments. These Steering Committee meetings were held back-to-back with the National Policy Dialogue on Water Policy in Moldova under the EU Water Initiative. The Steering Committee was established by joint ministerial Order No. 94/1166 from 21 November 2012. The objective was to set up a national policy dialogue and decision-making platform related to the PWH. This achievement can be judged satisfactory.

Output 8 - Regional Dialogue

The objective was to promote Moldovan experiences through regional dialogue on the PWH. It was ensured by various conference participations of government officials and civil society/ NGO representatives in Central Asia, Caucasus, Eastern Europe or Geneva.

The Review team is not in a position to assess how relevant the individual experiences impact on the national frame conditions and capacities of national and local authorities.

2.2.3 Summary on Intervention Strategy

Strengths

- Confined and realistic Project outputs for the 42 months duration, as well as well-balanced (but not focused) set of eight Project outputs
- National Program on the PWH establishes health-related targets for WSS sector planning and translates them into national policy, but National Program not yet adopted
- Trainings on WSP were well facilitated and participants understood concept and its benefit
- Norms and code of practice are very relevant, but not yet adopted
- Public awareness activities were outperformed numerically by far

Weaknesses

- Too broad set of outputs combined with a limited Project budget resulted in limited Project achievements vis-à-vis the Project outcome
- Action Plan in its present state focuses on mobilizing additional resources and not on providing a comprehensive picture what needs to be done to achieve a certain target and which measures are funded and which not.
- Trainings left little impact related to actual development of WSP at the level of the utility and the water supply system

- Focus on WSP for urban water operators with a small number of WUA representatives despite higher levels of water-borne diseases and thus higher needs in rural communities. The Action Plan targets all towns with a population of over 2,000 inhabitants (target II)
- Poor performance of the Clearing House and very little use by the civil society/ public, amplification of awareness raising campaigns through wider NGO community was weak

2.3 Implementation Modality

2.3.1 Relevance of Implementation Modality Design

The Review team understands that the initial Project phase which started in 2009 was designed at SDC headquarters and was facilitated through the *Project Facilitation Mechanism* (set up in accordance with Art. 14 of the PWH), aiming at stimulating international support for national action. The two national Focal Points under the PWH were also in charge of the Project – a laudable way to ensure post-Project sustainability of the achievements. The local support was ensured by continuing the involvement of the same NGO as in the first Project phase.

UNECE sees the role of the Focal Points is seen mainly for the following tasks:⁹⁾

- attending the meetings of governing and subsidiary bodies of the PWH
- coordinating the preparation of national summary reports
- communication with national authorities including on financial and in-kind contributions required under the PWH
- advocacy and promotion of the PWH at national, regional and international level

The involvement of the SCO was limited in the design which seems to be a missed opportunity considering SDC's long established leading role in WSS sector coordination and policy dialogue in Moldova. Although the SDC-internal Credit Proposal envisaged a clear steering responsibility and role for SCO-M in the Project, but this role was not clearly formalized (see next chapter).

Project financing is based on a funding contribution by SDC which bears little influence of SDC on the project implementation process i.e. project steering and oversight. For instance, procurements or budget changes do not have to be approved by SDC because UN procurement rules apply.

Further, the WHO as joint-host of the PWH was involved only marginally in the project design despite the benefits WHO could have provided e.g. in their function as technical lead agency for the dissemination of WSP.

9) See http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2009/Wat/mp_wat/ECE_MP.WAT_2009_13_E.pdf [accessed on 25 Nov 2015]

2.3.2 Project Steering

The Steering Committee meetings organized in Moldova by UNECE were not a Project-level steering mechanism but a conference-type and day-long event with very limited decision-taking activity related to the Project.

The Steering Committee was established by joint ministerial Order No. 94/1166 and the Statement on Common Understanding on the Project between the two ministries, UNECE and SDC, both from 21 November 2012.¹⁰⁾ Its tasks are mixed and embody the double function of the Steering Committee: on one side Project steering i.e. project supervision and decision-making, on the other hand also involving stakeholders and informing the public i.e. “multi-stakeholder representation” and “Consultations of the Parties”. The lack of focus on Project steering was increasingly criticized by SDC throughout 2015. The Ministries of Finance and of Economy were represented from the beginning but not by top-level representatives.

Project management was performed by UNECE in Geneva, staff from Geneva was present two to four times per year in Moldova, and tasks were sub-contracted to local or international consultants. Three different individuals were in charge at UNECE for the project management during the 3.5 years which did not contribute to establish stable interaction mechanisms between UNECE and sub-consultants and between UNECE and national project stakeholders.

2.3.3 Implementation Process

The co-ownership between MoE and MoH has substantially improved over the Project duration, especially the collaboration between both Focal Points, one at the MoE and one at the MoH. However, the MoE still perceives the PWH as a “health domain issue” which points at a limited shared leadership between the two national focal points within the MoE and MoH.

Project outputs were implemented by thematic working groups which consisted of local experts with the backstopping from international consultants. International consultants were present for a few days in Moldova, their individual performance according to UNECE seems to have varied and the perception of their performance by the stakeholders i.e. the PWH Focal Points and *Eco-Tiras* varies.. Their individual performance within the thematic working groups can't be further assessed in the frame of this Review, but the quality and progress related the outputs of the thematic working groups are closely linked to the individual performance of international consultants (discussed in chapter 2.2.2). Coordination between the UNECE and the WHO as lead technical agency for WSP was weak but started to improve in 2015. WHO also started involving *ApaSan* in their WASH activities in schools.

Two Moldovan NGOs were involved in the project:

10) Statement on Common Understanding of 21 November 2012, see: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/npd/MOU_English.pdf [accessed on 25 Nov 2015]

- The local NGO *Eco-Tiras* responsible for logistical support in Moldova for most of the project outputs was replaced in early 2015 apparently due to non-compliance with UNECE procurement rules. Their background is engagement with different stakeholder groups in the context of transboundary river management. Key *Eco-Tiras* personnel were or still are heavily involved in the PWH process and its bodies at an international and regional level.¹¹⁾ In spring 2015, *Eco-Tiras* was replaced by local NGO *Solidarity Water Europe in Moldova (SEAM)* which since then provided local support mainly related to public awareness including by producing and distributing promotional items (output 6).
- An analysis of the level of equitable access to water and sanitation was performed by piloting the self-assessment Score Card method developed by UNECE/WHO. The result was the Moldova Country Report published by *SEAM* and distributed to Moldovan key stakeholders. The analysis was implemented with support of UNECE as an activity in parallel and apart of this Project.

The coordination of trainings between facilitators and financiers of trainings on identical topics with same / different target groups may have been improved. For instance, WHO and UNECE organized trainings on Water Safety Plans, UNECE for water operators and WHO for public health staff. A strategic approach to move beyond episodic training events and necessary to have a solid penetration and actual impact on the level of the water operators or district public health offices is lacking.

2.3.4 Reporting and Communication

Communication between UNECE and the SCO-M was limited to the biannual Steering Committee meetings where exchanges focused on presentations of numerous organizations involved in the PWH target setting and implementation process. The annual operational reports are lacking a critical reflection on the Project's shortcoming and limitations. Further it displays a very limited financial reporting which however is in line with UN procurement rules. The monitoring system on outcome level and thus the ability to make informed decisions on adapting the Project directions to new realities as foreseen by SDC-internal Credit Proposal was very limited.

However, also SDC's Management Responses on the Annual Reports were little critical as exemplified by the response on the Operational Report 2014. After the second SC in 2014 and throughout 2015, SCO's comments became more pronounced and increasingly expressed their concerns with the lack of project-level steering. UNECE insisted on the Project implementation modalities agreed upon and in line with mechanisms defined by the PWH itself.

11) One individual at *Eco-Tiras* is a member of the Compliance Committee under the PWH, the other participates as NGO representative in the Working Group on Water and Health and the Task Force on Target-Setting and Reporting.

2.3.5 Summary on Modality

Strengths

- Collaboration at national level between MoE and MoH and their Focal Points on water-health issues has improved from a very low to a mediocre level
- Collaboration at district level between water utility operators and public health institutions have been strengthened in some cases with the support of trainings
- Close involvement of national stakeholders in project process, participatory provisions in project implementation approach

Weaknesses

- Almost complete absence of Project-level steering
- Lack of involvement of SCO-M despite its leading role in national WSS sector coordination and policy dialogue
- SDC's critical commenting on UNECE's annual reports was marginal but started to increase from 2014 onwards

2.4 Conclusions

The Project's design did not sufficiently align the expectations of UNECE and SDC on country level: UNECE emphasizes that the Project activities were a relevant contribution in supporting Moldova to fulfil its duties under the PWH. From SDC's perspective, the Project activities with its focus on planning instruments alongside with a wide set of activities concerning regulation, training, awareness raising and policy dialogue did not result in sufficient tangible and relevant achievements which would also contribute to SDC's strategic objectives in Moldova. The Project design embodies these contradictions. The Project-level steering mechanisms which could have aligned these different objectives over the duration of 3.5 years were unfortunately not in place.

The Review team considers the achievements of the Project overall are limited. The National Program, the key output of a 42month long project, is still in the consultation process.

By taking into account the intervention logic and the modality of this second Project phase and by taking into account SDC's current strategy in Moldova, the Review team recommends discontinuing SDC's direct funding to UNECE's support to Moldova for achieving its targets set under the PWH. The Review team instead strongly recommends building upon a set of positive achievements which mainly are:

- Health-related targets set under the PWH and their translation into a national strategy (if national program will be approved) are instrumental to align WSS sector projects towards health-related outcomes and to inform planning and reporting of WSS projects.
- Established processes related to the duties under the PWH are established and operational to a certain degree i.e. Focal Points at the MoE and MoH responsible for reporting under the PWH strengthened; Clearing House set up; regional policy dialogue through the UNECE system on-going.

- Collaboration at national level between MoE and MoH and their Focal Points on water-health issues has improved from a very low to a mediocre level.
- Collaboration at district level between water utility operators and public health institutions have been strengthened at least in some cases.
- Trainings on WSP were well facilitated and participants understood concept and its benefit, the role of WHO as technical lead agency for WSP has been strengthened.

3 Recommendations

The recommendations take into account SDC's current project portfolio in Moldova. SCO's overall budget of CHF 18.6 million for the period of 2014-2017 is mostly committed thus there is little room for fiscal manoeuvring. Therefore the recommendations will not focus on resource-intensive interventions but on complementing on-going and planned SDC projects or develop small add-ons to the portfolio projects.

The following recommendations are also aligned with SDC's strategic objectives in Moldova for the period 2014-2017 which are:

- Improving the access of the Moldovan population to safe drinking water and proper sanitation services through sustainable, affordable and replicable decentralised models, in rural areas and small towns;
- Enhancing access to improved essential health services for the rural population and vulnerable groups, particularly in primary health care, mental health, paediatric emergency services and youth friendly services.

The SDC strategy for Moldova after 2017 is in the process to take first contours; the WSS and health sectors may well be complemented or gradually replaced with a new programmatic focus. For instance, financing of infrastructure as done through *ApaSan* will be discontinued after its third phase.

Our recommendations based on SDC's strategic focus for 2014-2017 and in aligned with SDC's resources for Moldova focus on three fields of intervention as shown in Figure 1.

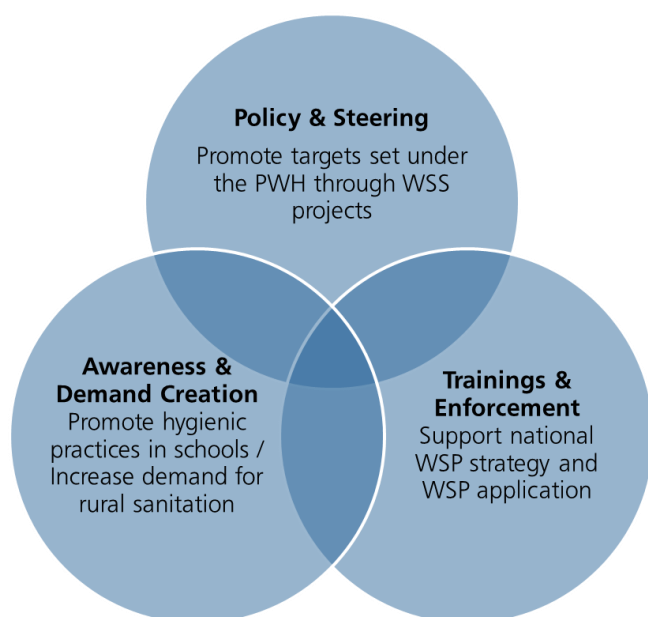


Figure 1: Recommendations: three fields of intervention

Within these three intervention fields, several concrete activities could be envisaged. We recommend a set of four possible interventions, including the reasoning behind, the concrete interventions and the proposed modality i.e. mainly which actors to be involved. The concrete interventions still offer room for selecting the most appropriate ones. The link to the targets set under the PWH is indicated where appropriate.

A. Promote targets set under the PWH through WSS projects

Description and reasoning

SDC's country strategy is oriented towards improving access to services but less towards having impacts on health status by reducing water-related diseases.

We recommend to increase focusing on health outcomes within SDC funded WSS projects in order to (a) ensure relevance of WSS interventions vis-à-vis health-related targets but also to (b) strengthen the institutional involvement of the MoH in water quality surveillance, enforcement, reporting etc.

Interventions

- Promote the use of targets set under the PWH in reporting and project activities of SDC-funded projects, e.g. by
 - documenting project achievements with a clear reference to targets set under the PWH e.g. water quality, outbreaks/incidents of water-related diseases
 - justifying new project activities by referring to the Action Plan in the National Program developed by MoH/ MoE under the Project phase 2
- Increase activities related to the promotion of personal hygiene and other measures to reduce water-borne diseases at the point-of-use e.g. trainings, awareness campaigns, activities, performances at social or cultural events
- Involve the Focal Points of the PWH within MoH and the MoE in WSS sector coordination meetings or share decisions if they concern WSS contributions to the PWH
- Promote the use of targets set under the PWH in river basin management and other water resources projects
- Additionally, once the National Program is endorsed, analyse the Action Plan to identify which concrete measures can be supported through existing donor-funded projects.

Implementation Modality

- Organize a thematic workshop on streamlining health aspects into SDC funded projects i.e. targets as well as concrete complementary measures
- Make use of established sector coordination mechanisms
- Make use of regular steering mechanisms of SDC-funded projects e.g. *ApaSan*, IFP, etc.
- Once the National Program is endorsed by the Government, promote measures in the Action Plan in coordination with the appropriate line ministries and Ministry of Finance through sector coordination mechanisms.

B. Support national Water Safety Plan strategy

Description and reasoning

Water Safety Plans (WSP) are a relevant tool to promote health-outcomes within WSS projects as they focus on risk reductions for contamination from the water resources to the point-of-use. They are promoted as measure to contribute to **target domain II** of the PWH. WSP serve as a good instrument to address both (a) the “implementing agency” i.e. the water operators and (b) the “enforcement agency” i.e. the public health authorities at district level. WHO and IWA have provided well perceived trainings so far, their expertise and own resources shall be further used.

Interventions

- Lead the development of a Water Safety Plan strategy i.e. a more strategic approach towards training and enforcement of WSP i.e.
 - Initiate and support development of a WSP dissemination and training strategy in cooperation with the MoH, MoE and other relevant actors, ideally through the sector coordination mechanism
 - Select 2-3 pilot water utilities within 1-2 districts where trainings for different target groups at district or even at municipal level are designed and implemented
 - Ensure clear and monitored follow-up activities i.e. develop and monitor use of WSP at the level of city/district water operator and district public health centres after the trainings to achieve real impact
- Stimulate legal adoption of WSP or similar risk-reduction/ surveillance instruments into Moldovan legal framework, in line with recently revised EU Drinking Water Quality Directive (Commission Directive 2015/1787 of 6 October 2015), e.g. by involving the PWH Focal Point
- Additionally, ensure introduction and application of WSP within SDC funded projects, by promoting their adaptation in the rural context and establishing enforcement mechanisms through district public health authorities

Implementation Modality

- Focus activities on sub-national stakeholders i.e. on district level; mobilize public health centres and water operators at selected districts
- Coordinate strategy with public health centres/ MoH and MoE at national level
- Involve AMAC in developing training strategy, in close coordination with WHO and IWA as partners for technical support and training facilitation, also using their own resources
- Link and coordinate the trainings with the action plan under the EU-MD association agreement
- Consider funding of activities through Small Grant Programme

C. Promote hygienic practices in (pre) schools

Description and reasoning

The improvement of compliance of chemical and microbiological drinking-water quality in schools and kindergartens is stipulated in **target domain I** of the PWH. Although the Action Plan only includes supply, treatment and laboratory infrastructure and regulations to achieve this target, we recommend promoting hygienic practices through activities at the school level to students and school staff. The construction of *ecosan* toilets at school-level in the framework of the *ApaSan* project may be an entry point for such activities.

Interventions

- Improve personal hygiene through WASH and PHAST trainings or during a national “Hand Wash Day” in schools, especially in the context of using and maintaining *ecosan* toilets
- Complement the optional course with didactic set of books on “Environmental Education” for first to twelfth grade students (developed in 2015) with information relevant to different targets set under the PWH
- Complement WSP trainings / WSP elaboration in pilot districts with targeted activities in schools
- Focus on infrastructure projects to provide complementary interventions e.g. *ApaSan*

Implementation Modality

- Establish collaboration with NGOs active in environmental, social and health domains to benefit from existing know-how, such as Dacia Resource Center for Youth from Soroca town, NGO “Mostenitorii” from Balti municipality, Contact Center from Cahul, Caroma-Nord from Balti municipality, Stefan Voda rayon branch of Ecological Movement of Moldova
- Clearing House within the national CPH to organize and concert organization and implementation of national “Hand Washing Day” at the local levels, develop/ distribute adequate materials, also to ensure adequate media coverage (social media, TV interviews, etc.), with adequate involvement of district-level CPH
- Linking activities especially the “Hand Washing Day” with Ministry of Education and the district-level Departments of Education, for instructions to sub-national levels
- Establish good coordination or a targeted collaboration with the WHO programme “WASH in schools” to complement specific SDC funded project activities
- Consider funding of activities through Small Grant Programme

D. Increase demand for rural sanitation

Description and reasoning

Sanitation coverage levels in rural areas are still very low compared to EU countries and should therefore be a key priority. Although regionalization of water utilities may improve overall access, the focus on remote settlements far from district centres still fits well with SDC's strategic focus. The focus also corresponds to **target domain IV** of the PWH.

We propose a focus on improving sanitation / waste water treatment. The objective is to show the negative impacts on health to stimulate demand for sanitation services. Demand is a prerequisite to start discussing technical and institutional solutions.

Interventions

- Organize public outreach campaigns in rural communities with low sanitation levels, with concrete health related messages to sensitize on its health impact
- Where appropriate, apply the scorecard methodology for baseline assessment of equitable access
- Complement WSP trainings/ elaboration in pilot districts with activities in schools
- Focus on pilot areas to be selected
- Additionally, promote adaptation of norms and code of practice on small water supply and sanitation systems as it has been done in the Project

Implementation Modality

- Use district-level centres for public health or if existing also village-level health facilities as "hub" for awareness activities
- Clearing House to support awareness activities, support to develop/ distribute adequate materials
- Use "Hand Washing Days" as an event to do these awareness activities
- Use know-how of NGO platform on Environment and Health for public outreach campaigns e.g. EcoVisio, Gutta Club, Eco-Tiras, SEAM, the National Environmental Centre NEC etc.
- Engage other local social institutions e.g. associations, cultural or religious groups, youth groups
- Consider funding of activities through Small Grant Programme in selected districts

A1 SWOT Diagram

The following SWOT diagram is based on the findings presented in chapters 2.1 to 2.3. The relevant conclusions for the recommendations (see chapter 2.4) build upon the strengths of the intervention strategy and implementation modality and upon the opportunities identified in the WSS and health domains.

2.2 Intervention Strategy		Strengths • Confined and realistic project outputs for the 42 months duration, as well as well-balanced set of 8 project outputs • National program on the PWH establishes health-related targets for WSS sector planning and translates them into national policy, but program not yet adopted • Trainings on WSP were well facilitated and participants understood concept and its benefit • Norms and code of practice are very relevant, but not yet adopted • Public awareness activities were outperformed numerically by far	Weaknesses • Too broad set of outputs combined with a limited Project budget resulted in limited Project achievements vis-à-vis the Project outcome. • Action Plan in its present state focuses on mobilizing additional resources and not on providing a comprehensive picture what needs to be done to achieve a certain target and which measures are funded and which not. • Trainings left little impact related to actual development of WSP at the level of the utility and the water supply system. • Focus on WSP for urban water operators with a small number of WUA representatives despite higher levels of water-borne diseases and thus higher needs in rural communities. The Action Plan targets all towns with a population of over 2,000 inhabitants (target II). • Poor performance of the Clearing House and very little use by the civil society/ public, amplification of awareness raising campaigns through wider NGO community was weak.
2.3 Implementation Modality		Strengths • Collaboration at national level between MoE and MoH and their Focal Points on water-health issues has improved from a very low to a mediocre level. • Collaboration at district level between water utility operators and public health institutions have been strengthened in some cases with the support of trainings. • Close involvement of national stakeholders in project process, participatory provisions in project implementation approach.	Weaknesses • Almost complete absence of Project-level steering. • Lack of involvement of SCO-M despite its leading role in national WSS sector coordination and policy dialogue. • SDC's critical commenting on UNECE's annual reports was marginal but started to increase from 2014 onwards.
2.1 Context Analysis WSS and Health Domains	Opportunities • PWH is an internationally binding agreement instrumental to promote the human rights to water and sanitation • PWH is a strategic framework to streamline and merge water, sanitation and health targets into national and sub-national planning instruments • PWH potentially improves the coordination / joint-planning between the MoH and the MoE at national level. • EU-Moldova association agreement sets firm targets on legislative approximation; however its progress depends on political support. • The targets set under the PWH include references to EU legislation mentioned in the EU-Moldova association agreement e.g. the Directive on Urban Wastewater Treatment. • The recently updated WSS Strategy has integrated SDC's rural WSS model promoted through the ApaSan project. Threats • PWH offers a limited added benefit to existing sectorial strategies and their related planning instruments i.e. the relevance of the inter-sectorial and multi-year action plan developed under the PWH seems questionable. • Synergies between the PWH activities and SDC's portfolio is weak (WSS domain) or completely absent (health domain). • Lack of strategy on roles and responsibilities of governmental institution, especially within the MoE the responsibilities are not clearly defined and conflict of interests exist e.g. Agency Apele Moldovei. • Lack of continuity of technical and high-level personnel in key governmental institutions, impacting on institutional memory in terms of framework conditions and institutional capacities. • Political crisis impacts on decision-making and follow-up on commitments and ownership of ongoing and planned projects.	Relevant Conclusions for Recommendations building on the Strengths and Opportunities • Health-related targets set under the PWH and their translation into a national strategy (if national program will be approved) are instrumental to align WSS sector projects towards health-related outcomes and to inform planning and reporting of WSS projects. • Established processes related to the duties under the PWH are established and operational to a certain degree i.e. Focal Points at the MoE and MoH responsible for reporting under the PWH strengthened; Clearing House set up; regional policy dialogue through the UNECE system on-going. • Collaboration at national level between MoE and MoH and their Focal Points on water-health issues has improved from a very low to a mediocre level. • Collaboration at district level between water utility operators and public health institutions have been strengthened at least in some cases. • Trainings on WSP were well facilitated and participants understood concept and its benefit, the role of WHO as technical lead agency is strengthened.	

Table 1: SWOT Diagram with relevant conclusions for the recommendations

A2 Institutional Framework Moldova

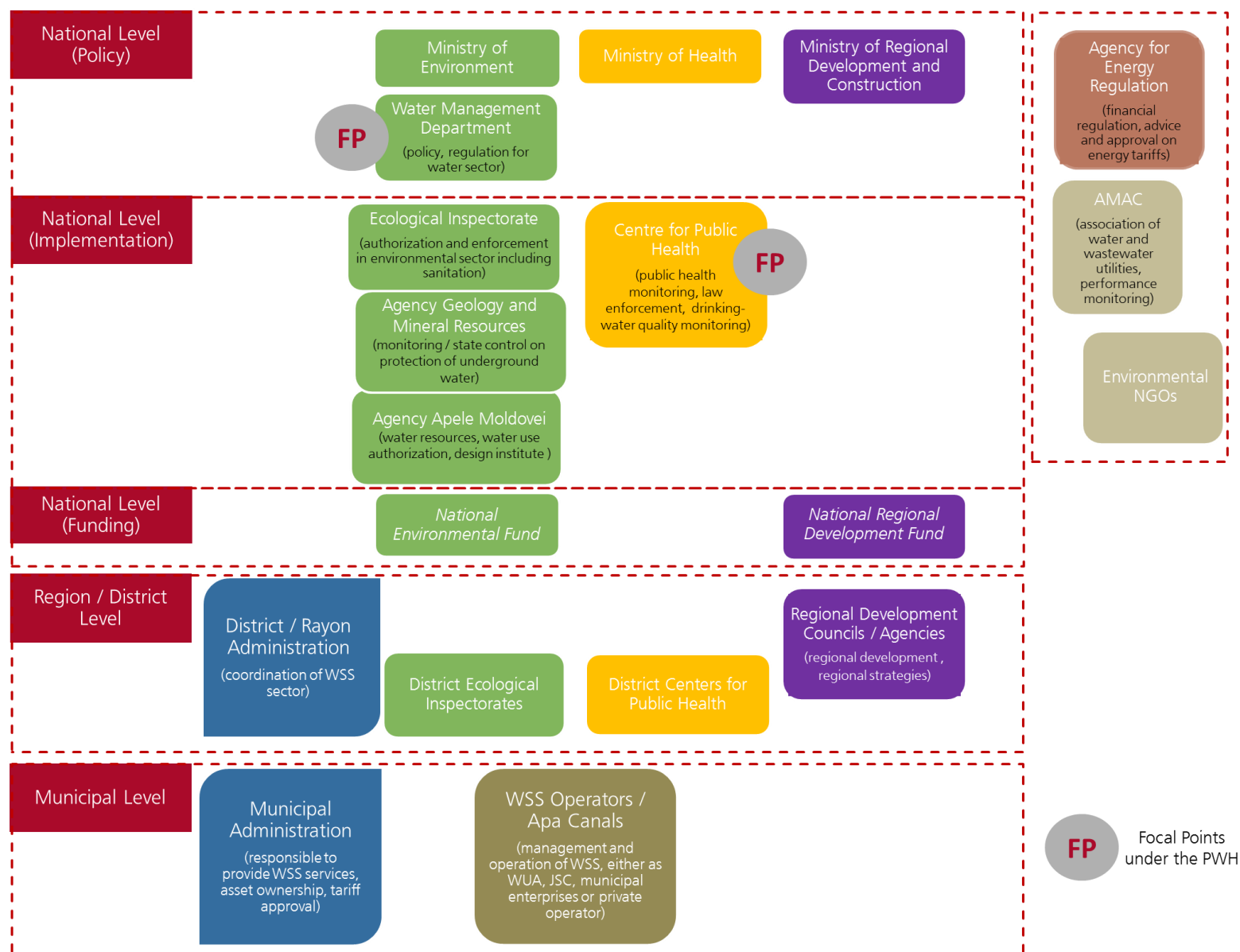


Figure 2: Institutional Framework for Moldova, focusing on the WSS and Health domains

A3 Interview Plan

Day	Date	Time	Interviewed Individuals, Participants	Organisation
Thu	15 Oct 2015	09h00 - 11h00	Serafima Tronza, Head of Water Management Department, Focal Point of the PWH within the MoE	Ministry of Environment (MoE)
Wed	21 Oct 2015	18h00 - 20h30	Nataliya Nikiforova, Project Manager/ Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Environment Division Alisher Mamadzhanov, former Project Manager, UNECE Environment Division Pierre Studer, Chairperson of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health Francesca Bernardini, Co-Secretary of the Protocol, UNECE Environment Division	UNECE, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Mon	26 Oct 2015	11h00 - 13h00	Simone Giger, Director of Cooperation Andrei Cantemir, National Programme Officer Matthias Leicht-Miranda, Senior Program Manager Water and Health	Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova, SDC (Mission kick-off briefing)
	26 Oct 015	14h00 - 16h00	Dietrich Hahn, Senior International Advisor on Local Public Services Valentina Plesca, Senior National Advisor on Local Public Services	GIZ Chisinau, Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova (MLPS) Project
	26 Oct 015	16h15 - 17h30	Arcadii Calaras, Director Grigore Prisacaru, Water Resources Division	Apele Moldovei Agency, under the MoEnv
Tue	27 Oct 2015	10h00 - 12h00	Daniela Bordeianu, Director of SEAM	SEAM (Solidarity Water Europe in Moldova)
	27 Oct 2015	15h30 - 17h00	Elena Zubcov, Head of Laboratory	Laboratory of Hydrobiology and Ecotoxicology, Institute of Zoology, Academy of Sciences of Moldova; EcoTox (Association of Ecotoxicology of Moldova)
	27 Oct 2015	17h30 - 19h00	Tamara Guvir, GOPA project coordinator, former Focal Point of PWH on behalf of the MoE; former Head of Department of Pollution Prevention and Waste Management within the MoE	GIZ Chisinau, MLPS
Wed	28 Oct 2015	09h00 - 10h30	Arcadie Rusnac, Apa-Canal Chisinau	Apa-Canal Chisinau office
	28 Oct 2015	11h00 - 12h00	Natalia Ciobanu, Coordinator of the National Platform on Water and Health	European Environment and Health Youth Coalition
	28 Oct 2015	12h30 - 13h45	Jonathan Hecke, international project coordinator Corina Andronic, Communication Specialist	ApaSan project, SDC funded and implemented by Skat Ltd.
	28 Oct 2015	14h00 - 16h00	Ion Salaru, Focal Point of the PWH within the Ministry of Health	National Centre of Public Health (CPH), subordinated to MoH

Day	Date	Time	Interviewed Individuals, Participants	Organisation
Thu	29 Oct 2015	09h00 - 11h00	Valeriu Goncear, Vice-Head of Department for Public Health	Ministry of Health
	29 Oct 2015	13h00 - 15h30	Ivan Burduja, Apa-Canal Orhei Constantin Vacarciuc, Centre for Public Health Orhei District	Orhei Center of Public Health office
Fri	30 Oct 2015	09h00 - 11h00	Iurie Nistor, Executive Director Vladimir Larionov, specialist	AMAC, Association of APA-CANAL companies
	30 Oct 2015	13h00 - 15h00	Ilya Trombitsky, PhD Tatiana Siniaeva, Project Coordinator Water and Health	Eco-Tiras, International Association of River Keepers
	30 Oct 2015	17h00 - 18h30	Simone Giger, Director of Cooperation Andrei Cantemir, National Programme Officer	Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova, SDC (Mission de-briefing)
Sat	31 Oct 2015	9h30 - 11h30	Andrei Cantemir, National Programme Officer	Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova, SDC (Mission de-briefing)
Mon	02 Nov 2015	11h00 - 12h15	Oliver Schmoll, Co-Secretary of the Protocol on Water and Health	WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Regional Office for Europe