

## **PROJECT DOCUMENT**

### **Protocol on Water and Health – Improving health in Armenia through target setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation**

Short title:

**Target setting process under the Protocol on Water and Health in Armenia**

## **PART I OF THE PROJECT DOCUMENT**

**22 June 2012**

## Background and rationale for the project proposal

The Republic of Armenia has signed the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) on 17 June 1999 in London. Since then, the process of ratification has been initiated, but not finalized yet. Current information on the ratification process leads to the expectation that by the end of the UNECE-FinWaterWei<sup>1</sup> project, Armenia may have finalized all necessary internal processes to become a Party to the Protocol.

Once ratified by the Government of Armenia, Armenia would still have a period of two years to establish and publish targets and target dates referred to in paragraph 2 of article 6 of the Protocol on Water and Health. In order to facilitate this target setting process and gain experience in the implementation of the Protocol, Armenia with the assistance of the Protocol's secretariat has drawn up a project proposal and agreed to submit it to the Parties to the Protocol with the request for support in its implementation.

The project proposal, submitted at the 2009 meeting of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism (AHPFM), established by the Parties to the Protocol under its article 14, was based on the outcome of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management as well as water supply and sanitation, conducted in Armenia since 2007 as part of the EU Water Initiative, with UNECE as key strategic partner on integrated water resources management and OECD as key strategic partner on water supply and sanitation issue, including financial aspects thereof. The project proposal had the full support of the Steering Committee for the National Policy Dialogue; it also foresaw that the Ministry of Nature Protection (with its Water Resources Management Agency) and the Ministry of Health (with its State Hygiene Inspectorate) would become the project implementation agencies.

The project proposal was drawn up and submitted according to a format suggested by the AHPFM.<sup>2</sup> This format did not contain major project requirements of donor countries and organizations, such as a clear indication of outcomes and outputs, a logical framework for project implementation including key indicators and a list of activities. It also omitted information on the implementing strategy (including gender issues); organization, management and administration; risk analysis; and monitoring and evaluation.

Thus, at the suggestion of Finland, the original project proposal drawn up by Armenia was further elaborated by a consultant to the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) to meet the requirements of projects financed by Finland. To this end, consultations were held with representatives of the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), representatives of UNECE, representatives of the Armenian Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency, the Armenian Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee on Water Systems, the Armenian Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate, and representatives of the NGO "Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment". The consultations with the above Armenian representatives were held in Yerevan on 10-12 April 2012; consultations were also held with the participants of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for the National Policy Dialogue (11 April 2012).

At the meeting on 11 April 2012, the Steering Committee:

- Renewed its agreement on the overall and specific objectives of the project (see Chapter III);
- Confirmed its readiness and commitment for project implementation;
- Expressed its gratitude to the Government of Finland to provide financial and human resources for project implementation;
- Expressed its readiness to act as steering mechanism for the target setting process on the assumption that other key stakeholders would join the existing Steering Committee
- Concurred with the requirements of Finland that UNECE would be the project implementation agency that would cooperate with all competent stakeholders on water and health issue in Armenia.

The present project document includes the outcome of the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> FinWaterWei is the programme for Finland's water sector support to the EECCA countries under the Wider Europe Initiative. The FinWaterWEI programme is managed on behalf of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs by SYKE ( <http://www.environment.fi/default.asp?contentid=405313&lan=EN> )

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents\\_ahpfm2.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_ahpfm2.html)

## Table of content

1. CONTEXT
  - 1.1 Key information relevant for the project
  - 1.2 Target groups
  - 1.3 Analysis of drivers of change
  - 1.4 Link to policy frameworks
  - 1.5 Key lessons learned
  
2. THE TARGET SETTING PROCESS IN ARMENIA
  - 2.1 Overall and specific objectives of the target setting process
  - 2.2 Major tasks and activities under the target setting process
    - 2.2.1 Task I: Identification of key stakeholders and setting up a coordination mechanism
    - 2.2.2 Task II: Baseline analysis
    - 2.2.3 Task III: Identification and prioritisation of problems
    - 2.2.4 Task IV: Agreement on draft targets, programme of measures and indicators
    - 2.2.5 Task V: Broad consultation on proposed targets and relevant programme of measures
    - 2.2.6 TASK VI: Final agreement on targets and their publication and communication to all stakeholders
    - 2.2.7 Task VII: Implementation of the programme of measures
    - 2.2.8 Task VIII: Review and assessment of progress and reporting
    - 2.2.9 Task IX: Stakeholder involvement
    - 2.2.10 Task X: Revision of targets
  
3. OBJECTIVES
  - 3.1 Strengthened capacity of the Government of Armenia to implement targets and proposed measures to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
  - 3.2 Enhanced implementation capacities and improved outreach, including public access to water-and-health related information and public awareness
  - 3.3 Enabling project environment
  
4. IMPLEMENTING STRATEGY
  - 4.1 Intervention approach
  - 4.2 Main partner organizations and cooperation and coordination
  - 4.3 Gender approach
  - 4.4 Sustainability
  - 4.5 End of project vision and exit strategy
  
5. ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
  - 5.1 Time frame and tentative breakdown of the project
    - 5.2.1 Organizational structure and steering mechanism
    - 5.2.2 Roles, tasks and responsibilities
    - 5.2.3 Level of intervention of UNECE
  - 5.3 Contracting of project components
  - 5.4 Administrative arrangements
  
6. RESOURCES
  
7. RISK ANALYSIS
  - 7.1 Assumptions and risk as to financing
  - 7.2 Assumptions and risk as to project management
  
8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## **Annexes**

- Annex I: Data and information on Armenia of relevance to the Protocol on Water and Health
- Annex II: Responsibilities of main governmental bodies and Armenian national consultants for the work under the various target areas
- Annex III: Time-schedule for project implementation
- Annex IV: Budget of the project

## **Note**

The Logical Framework of the project is contained in Part II of the project document

## 1. CONTEXT

### 1.1 Key information relevant for the project

During the last ten years, Armenia has recorded significant legislative and institutional achievements in terms of water resources management and protection, the main direction of which was the introduction and application of the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in the country. Legislative and institutional reforms also covered the water supply and sanitation sector and the health sector. The success of the reforms was mainly contingent upon the policy implemented by the Armenian Government in coordination with the missions and initiatives of various national donors and international donor organizations.<sup>3</sup>

Given the outcome of the consultations held with senior officials and other stakeholders on 10-12 April 2012, Armenia is willing to pursue the aims of access to drinking water for everyone; and provision of sanitation for everyone within a framework of integrated water-management systems aimed at sustainable use of water resources, ambient water quality which does not endanger human health, and protection of water ecosystems as set out in the Protocol on Water and Health. In the meantime, Armenia has initiated the internal ratification process. This ratification process should be finalized by the end of the project.<sup>4</sup>

Currently the water sector reforms are in the most important stage, which relates to decentralization of the water resources management functions as well as the improvement of water supply and sanitation. This will ensure more efficient integrated management of water resources at basin level for the sake of the water users and the country, safe drinking water supply and adequate sanitation and the protection of human health and well-being.

Annex I provides some background information and data on water management, water use and sanitation, and water-related diseases.

Given the figures on water resources and use, Armenia is a “water-stressed” country as its Water Exploitation Index (WEI) exceeds with 45% the threshold value of 40%. At the same, Armenia is prone to floods and therefore climate change adaptation to minimize potential vulnerabilities are to be undertaken. Increased attention is being paid to achieve efficient management, development and use of water resources, a process that is embedded in the 2006 Law on the National Water Programme with mid-term (2015) and long-term (2020) objectives.

The quality, reliability, and efficiency of water supply and sanitation services have considerably improved in Yerevan over the past ten years. Water supply has increased from about 7 hours to about 18.5 hours a day, and in early 2012 more than 56% of Yerevan’s population had a continued 24-hour service. Around 95% of the city’s inhabitants are now connected to collective systems for sanitation.

In other cities (particularly those with less than 50,000 inhabitants) and in rural areas, the access to drinking water has to be increased. In 2008, for example, 560 settlements out of the total of 980 settlements were not covered by collective systems of drinking water and had to rely on unsafe local sources. There is also a need to improve the sanitary and epidemiological management. In 2009, for example, 17.4% of samples taken from drinking water still failed to meet the standards for *E. coli*. On the other hand, significantly fewer children under 5 years were infected with diarrhoeal diseases in recent years (in 2009, 3.9 per 100,000 compared to 30 in 1998). At the same time, intestinal infectious diseases showed a slight increase (in 2006, 166 persons in 100,000 compared to 179 in 2008). Better maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure would help to reduce the potential threat of incidents or outbreaks of waterborne diseases in some areas of Armenia.

A particular focus will be the improvement of sanitation, with upgrading the infrastructure in urban areas (95% of the urban population had access to improved sanitation in 2010) and in rural areas (80% of population covered). In rural areas, the use of such small sanitation systems as artificial wetlands will also be a goal. Other major concerns to be addressed include the protection of waters, which are used as sources for drinking water, and the rehabilitation of particularly contaminated areas.

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<sup>3</sup> POLICY BRIEF- SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMENIAN NPD ON IWRM, Prepared for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in the framework of the National Policy Dialogue in Armenia; see the Armenian Water Portal at [www.awp.am/en/Reports.html](http://www.awp.am/en/Reports.html)

<sup>4</sup> Should this not be the case by the end of the project, one of the documents to be drawn up - the Action Plan - will contain a “Roadmap” describing obligations of competent Armenian authorities in the ratification process and steps to be undertaken by a given timeline.

## *National Policy Dialogue under the EU Water Initiative*

In the process of development of integrated water resources management as well as water supply and sanitation, the role of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) is very critical, taking into consideration the path of Armenia, directed towards adoption of European approaches. As these activities are to balance the inter-linked relationship between the water users (including communities and the energy, industry, agriculture and other sectors) and the environment, a Steering Committee for Armenia has been established under the auspices of the EUWI in order to coordinate work on water and health issues that are linked to IWRM (with UNECE as key strategic partner of Armenia) as well as water supply and sanitation and financing (with OECD as key strategic partner).

In 2010, UNECE and the OECD expanded the scope of the Steering Committee, which allows more synergies and better coordination of activities, including economic instruments in water management. Under the auspices of OECD, activities on financing IWRM in two river basins were initiated, whereby the work on the Marmarik river basin has been completed and the work is to be finalized by end of 2012 in the Debed river basin. A pilot project on payments for ecosystem services in the Hazran river basin was also carried out in 2010-2011 with the support from the funds of the Government of Switzerland through the UNECE.

From the very beginning, the Steering Committee was chaired on a rotational basis by the Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection and the State Committee of Water Systems. It included representatives of key Armenian stakeholders, such as ministries and agencies, the private sector, academia, and NGOs. Representatives of international organizations also participated in the meetings.<sup>5</sup>

### *Integrated water resources management*

As concerns work on integrated water resources management, with UNECE as strategic partner of Armenia, a "Roadmap" has been developed for the National Policy Dialogue process. One of the activities under the Roadmap was the implementation of the principles of the Protocol on Water and Health; another activity was linked to the implementation of principles of the Water Framework Directive in selected Armenian river basins.

This Roadmap was approved by the Steering Committee at its first meeting on 12 January 2007. As concerns the target setting process under the Protocol on Water and Health, two activities were at the root of the current UNECE-FinWaterWEI project document, as described below.

### *Pilot project in the Marmarik catchment area*

In 2007, at the beginning of the National Policy Dialogue process in Armenia, the catchment area of the Marmarik River, a 37-km-long watercourse of some 420 km<sup>2</sup>, located in the Armenian part of the Kura River Basin, was chosen as a pilot area to apply – in a first step – the principles of the Protocol on Water and Health and the EU Water Framework Directive. The activities were conducted under the leadership of the Armenian Water Resources Management Agency and involved representatives of other Armenian agencies, most notably the State Committee of Water Systems and the State Hygiene Inspectorate.

In order to establish targets on sustainable water management, the process followed the major steps of the *Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting* (i.e., the identification of key stakeholders, baseline analysis, prioritization of activities, broad consultations with the public, agreement on targets and development of the relevant programme of measures).

The baseline analysis revealed that, despite the relatively good water quality in the catchment area, the availability of water resources under the impact of climate change may decrease by over 20% in 2030, which in turn would have a significant adverse effect on the existing water quality, including its impact on human health.

Although the current (2009) water abstraction of 69 million m<sup>3</sup> is still in the order 50% of the total annual river flow (158 million m<sup>3</sup>), the forecasted demand for irrigational water will lead to a huge water deficit in the irrigation period in summer and shortages in the drinking water supply of the resident population and the tourists. A cost estimate of the necessary legal, institutional and technical measures was made to maintain a good water quality status and achieve the desired conditions related to the quantity and quality of water supply. The estimate totaled US\$ 12 million (around US\$1,500 per inhabitant).

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/npd/MoU\\_Armenia\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/npd/MoU_Armenia_Eng.pdf)

In consultations, involving residents and representatives of major water users and local self-governance authorities, the following 10 general targets related to sustainable water management — in order of priority — were drawn up:

- Strict protection of drinking water and mineral water resources, as well as their efficient use;
- Expansion of the territory of the hydrological reserve and strengthening of the protection regime;
- Protection and development of water resources for recreational purposes;
- Development of hydropower production through the construction of small hydropower plants;
- Management and regulation of the river flow, including construction of reservoirs;
- Development of the irrigation system;
- Drawing up conditions for industrial water use and developing appropriate enforcement mechanism;
- Introduction and development of a system for discharge and treatment of wastewater from point sources;
- Development of a system for prevention of water pollution from diffuse sources;
- Development of a system for the reduction and prevention of erosion.

The financial analysis and affordability benchmarks showed that it was unrealistic to finance such targets and the related programme of measures; the targets and the programme of measures were revised to include only the priority measures required to achieve the desired conditions of water quantity and quality. Under the revised scenario, the total budget of the programme of measures amounted to US\$ 3.6 million or around US\$470 per inhabitant. These measures are currently under implementation.

*Improving health in Armenia through target setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation*

The experience with the pilot application in the Marmarik catchment area clearly demonstrated that any further specification of the general targets, targets dates and measures should pay particular attention to the health component. Therefore, the Steering Committee decided to embark – based on the experience with the Marmarik catchment area – on the setting of targets and target dates and the establishment of a programme of measures, covering the entire area of Armenia.

To this end, the Steering Committee entrusted a small group of experts from the Water Resources Management Agency, the State Committee of Water Systems, the State Hygiene Inspectorate, and the NGO Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE), to draw up with the assistance of representatives of UNECE and the European Office of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO), a project entitled “Improving health in Armenia through target setting to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe water and adequate sanitation”. This proposal for supporting the development of a programme of action under the Protocol on Water and Health has been submitted in 2009 to the so-called Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanisms, a mechanisms established by the Parties to the Protocol to facilitate access to sources of finance for non-infrastructure projects related to the Protocol (see article 14 of the Protocol).

The project was proposed to be financed by FinWaterWEI, the Programme for Finland's water sector support to the EECCA countries under the Wider Europe Initiative. Possibilities to have the required financing from other sources (EBRD Water Fund, World Bank) were sought, but without success. Finally, the FinWaterWEI Steering Committee at its meeting in February 2012 decided that the project would be financed under the umbrella of FinWaterWEI.

Before launching the project, the project proposal needed to be updated and further elaborated as the original version submitted to the AHPFM did not contain major project requirements of donor countries and organizations, such as a clear indication of outcomes and outputs, a logical framework for project implementation including key indicators and a list of activities. It also omitted information on the implementing strategy (including gender issues); organization, management and administration; risk analysis; and monitoring and evaluation.

The present project document, drawn up by a consultant to SYKE, is indented to overcome the deficiency of the original project proposal and its 2010 update.

## 1.2 Target Groups

The UNECE-FinWaterWei project and its various outputs will directly and positively affect the following target groups:

- Public authorities responsible for water management, safe drinking water supply and adequate sanitation (ministries, agencies, institutions, local governments);
- Water utilities' and sanitation facilities' operators and Water Associations;
- Environmental NGOs;
- Consumers and the population at large, including women, children as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The “immediate target group”, i.e. the ministries and agencies responsible for water and health issues, need support for the development of targets, target dates and a programme of measures, approved in a Governmental Document, which at the same time provides the framework for the Steering Committee to regularly review the implementation of the actions towards achieving the targets together with its representatives from governmental bodies, the private sector and competent NGOs. This target group is also in need of financial and methodological support for the implementation of the other priority tasks addressed in Chapter 3.

The capacity of water utilities' and sanitation facilities' operators and Water Associations as beneficiaries under this project will be strengthened, in cooperation with the activities of other donor countries and donor organizations such as the EU and its Technical Assistance programme.

Final beneficiaries are the users of water supply and sanitation services and more broadly the users of water resources in Armenia, i.e. the population at large, who will benefit from the outcome in the long term, i.e. increased access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, reduced burden of water-related diseases and improved status of water resources.

A specific group of beneficiaries include children and female staff in schools and similar institutions. Women have been identified as specific beneficiaries as they have special needs regarding water and sanitation services, with regard to quality, quantity and access. The gender dimension has thus been mainstreamed throughout the project and measurement of its impact through the indicators of achievement (see logical framework in Part II). Other beneficiaries with special needs include persons who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion to whom, according to the Protocol on Water and Health, special access to water, adequate in both terms of quantity and quality, should be provided (see Article 5 (k) of the Protocol on Water and Health). This is also in line with the obligations inherent in the human right to safe water and sanitation recognized as such by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in 2010. Persons who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion include:

- Men and women in the rural population (in small settlements) who may suffer from the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services;
- Vulnerable and marginalized groups such as persons with special physical needs (disabled, sick and elderly), users of institutionalized facilities (e.g. schools) and institutionalized persons;
- Persons who may not be able to afford the price of adequate water and sanitation services.

In the context of this project, special attention will be paid to persons living in rural areas to improve their access to adequate water and sanitation services. It is foreseen that the project takes account of this dimension and will comprise actions directed towards improving access to water and sanitation of women, children, other vulnerable groups and persons living in rural areas.

EU and other donors as well as international financial institutions active in the Armenian water sector will also benefit from the outcome of the UNECE-FinWaterWei project, in particular the development of targets and a programme of measures, which will take into account ongoing international assistance programmes. Opportunities for complementarities and possible synergies will be explored during the implementation of the project.

## 1.3 Analysis of actors and stakeholders

The work on the Marmarik catchment area and the drawing up of targets on sustainable water management relied on a small team of well-experienced experts from the Ministry of Nature Protection, the Water Resources Management Agency, the Ministry of Health as well as the local public administration and NGOs



active on water-and-health issues in Armenia. Some of these experts were also involved in the activities carried out by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, for example, the drafting of *Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting* under the Protocol on Water and Health.

Other important drivers were the members of the Steering Committee for the National Policy Dialogue, under which auspices the project on the Marmarik River was carried out and the project proposal on the setting of targets drawn up.

Other stakeholders (e.g. other ministries and agencies) played a minor role as “drivers”, both in the Marmarik project as well as the drawing up of the project proposal on the setting of targets for the entire territory of Armenia. This had various reasons, including lack of knowledge – and in some cases ignorance - of water-and-health issues. Under the UNECE-FinWaterWei project, particular attention has to be paid to the stakeholders from the Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems as well as from the Ministry of Finance as they are best informed on infrastructure-related programmes in the water supply and sanitation sector, including international assistance projects.

As “non-voting” members of the Steering Committee, a particular role played the representatives of UNDP (on climate change considerations), USAID (on river basin management planning), and the WHO Country Office (on health aspects). The UNECE-FinWaterWei project will also examine experience and make use of outputs of new activities under technical assistance programmes, for example, on river restoration (by the European Center for River Restoration, France), on “Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura-Aras River Basin - regional project in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia” (UNDP/GEF), on river basin management in Armenia (by the USAID Clean Water and Energy Programme), on “Transboundary River Management for the Kura River Basin – Phase III - regional project Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia” (EU-funded project), as well as on financing water management in Armenian river basins (OECD). All these organizations are participating in the Steering Committee meetings.

#### **1.4 Link to policy frameworks**

The UNECE-FinWaterWei project is directly linked to the Protocol on Water and Health. As an international legally binding instrument, the Protocol on Water and Health obliges the Parties to pursue the aims of:

- (a) Access to drinking water for everyone;
- (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

within a framework of integrated water-management systems aimed at sustainable use of water resources, ambient water quality which does not endanger human health, and protection of water ecosystems, (article 6, paragraph 1). As such, the Protocol is a practical tool to implement the human right to water and sanitation, as recognized by the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly in 2010.

Targets contribute to and even go beyond (in particular those with a target date after 2015) the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), notably goal 7, target 9 (i.e. to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources), and goal 7, target 10 (i.e. to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation); they also contribute to reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating malaria and other diseases, as put forward under MDGs 4, 5 and 6, respectively.

The UNECE-FinWaterWEI project is also directly linked to the existing Armenian policy frameworks, such as the National Policy Dialogue process under the EU Water Initiative.

Other countries’ policy frameworks would also benefit from the experience gained and the results achieved during the UNECE-FinWaterWEI project. This applies to Georgia, where a similar project, financially supported by Finland, is near to completion; and Kyrgyzstan, where UNECE and the Government of Norway are providing guidance to the target setting projects. This also applies to Moldova, where UNECE together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) foresee a second phase of the target setting project, conducted over a period of 18 months in 2009-2011; this second phase of 42 months would deal with the implementation of the established targets and programme of measures, and include – in addition to work on legal instruments - capacity building of operators, awareness-raising activities and the operation of a Clearing House under the Protocol on Water and Health.

## 1.5 Key lessons learned

The key lessons learned under the National Policy Dialogue process and/or the Marmarik pilot project are notably the following:

- The need for project supervision by the Steering Committee and by senior staff of the Water Resources Management Agency and the Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate;
- The continued involvement of other Armenian stakeholders and representatives of the international community;
- The extensive use of in-country experience through the involvement of leading experts from relevant ministries, agencies and the NGO community in the NPD process and the activities in the Marmarik catchment area; by involving individuals from many institutions the NPD and Marmarik activities gained wide-ranging support and acceptance and were broadly recognized within the water and health sector;
- The engagement of a small number of national consultants who worked under the guidance of UNECE and were in charge of the practical work on the NPD process and the target setting in the Marmarik catchment area;
- The development of a shared vision on the desired conditions of water and human health and the sustainable use of water resources in the Marmarik catchment area by a multidisciplinary team;
- The involvement of national experts, with due respect to gender representation, to ensure ownership and the integration of local experience in the Marmarik area;
- Basin-wide consultations and the discussion of action programmes involving user groups to develop and implement measures on water and health in the Marmarik catchment area; these basin-wide consultations became best practice in Armenia under the most recent NPD activities related to financing water management activities and the use of “payments for ecosystem services” schemes applied in Armenia;
- The continuous guidance and supervision of the work conducted by Armenian experts by UNECE, including regular reminders to respect deadlines and agreed formats for presenting project outputs by means of regular communication in-between the meetings in Armenia and the facilitative/moderating role of UNECE during the meetings.

## 2. THE TARGET SETTING PROCESS IN ARMENIA

### 2.1 Overall and specific objectives of the target setting process

The overall objective of the project and its specific objectives are set out in Chapter 3 and the Logical Framework in Part II of the project document.

Following these objectives, national and/or local targets will be established for the standards and levels of performance for 20 areas identified by article 6, paragraph 2, of the Protocol (hereinafter referred to as Target areas), if these are relevant for Armenia.

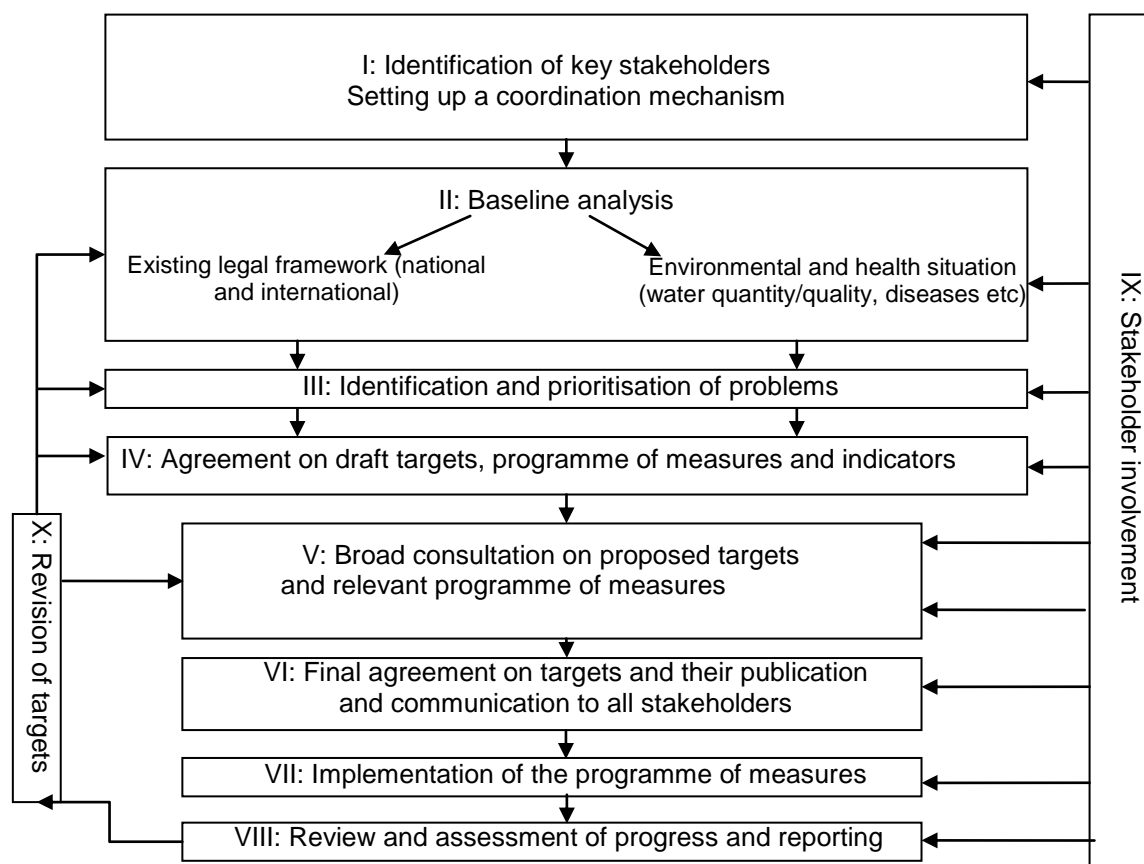
The establishment of targets and target dates will be based on the methodology and framework developed by the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting (a subsidiary body under the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health), with Switzerland as lead country, and contained in the *Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting*.<sup>6</sup> This methodology illustrates steps, which need to be taken, and aspects that should be considered when setting targets, implementing relevant measures and reporting on the progress achieved.

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<sup>6</sup> UNECE and WHO/EURO, 2010:  
Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting, ECE/MP.WH/5  
EUDHP1003944/4.2/2/1  
[http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/guidelines\\_target\\_setting.pdf](http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/guidelines_target_setting.pdf)

Figure 1 illustrates this framework of the target setting process. Further details on the work to be undertaken are provided below and in the logical Framework (Part II of the project document).

**Figure 1: Framework for the target setting process**



## 2.2 Major tasks and activities under the target setting process

### 2.2.1 Task I: Identification of key stakeholders and setting up a coordination mechanism

#### *Governance structure*

Problems related to management of water resources, water supply, sanitation and health are distributed across different policy sectors in Armenia and call for close cooperation among various authorities at the policy as well as the management levels. Therefore, the project is expected to create a platform for discussion and promotion of coherence, harmonization and integration between different sectors, bringing together various stakeholders (such as governmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific community, private sector and the general public). The process of target setting should also provide a vertical communication channel between different levels of administration (i.e. local and national administrations) and help to translate national targets into the local context.

Following the provisions of the Protocol, particularly the requirement to establish a transparent and fair framework for public involvement in decision-making, the project will incorporate key requirements of good governance. This is to be ensured through the transparency of the entire process of target setting that will involve all key stakeholders, including their access to the documents drawn up during project implementation. Moreover, the project will help to improve the Government's accountability (nationally vis-à-vis the country's population, and internationally vis-à-vis the Parties to the Protocol) in establishing the targets under the Protocol. The civil society will have an opportunity to participate in the identification and prioritisation of problems, the consultations on the proposed targets and the relevant measures, and the final agreement on the targets and target dates.

After the completion of the project, the Government of Armenia remains under the obligation to involve the civil society in the implementation of the measure and the review and assessment of progress; this will be laid down in the Action Plan and the Governmental Document on targets, target dates and proposed measures.

Under the project, the following bodies will be set up: A Working Group (composed of experienced national experts and representatives of the UNECE secretariat), a Steering Committee, and a NGO Coordination Mechanism. The composition of these bodies and their roles and responsibilities are described below.

### 2.2.2 Task II: Baseline analysis

The baseline analysis is the first substantive technical step under the target setting process and includes an analysis of the existing legal framework (national and international) and the environmental and health situation in Armenia.

Given the discussion at the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting on the National Policy Dialogue in Armenia (Yerevan, 11 April 2012), priority issues for improving the water-and-health situation in Armenia will obviously include the following:

- Increasing the access of urban and rural populations to improved sources of drinking water and establishing water safety plans;
- Increasing the access of the rural populations to adequate sanitation;
- Revision of the legal and regulatory basis related to drinking water and harmonization with European standards;
- Safeguarding the performance of water supply and sanitation facilities under extreme weather conditions and climate change;
- Improving existing water management systems in line with requirements of the Protocol on Water and Health and such applicable EU Directives as the Water Framework Directive and its economic instruments;
- Safeguarding the relative good status of the existing response systems regarding outbreaks of water-related diseases.

When working with representatives of central authorities, such as ministries and nation-wide agencies, there is always a tendency that these representatives stress action to be taken at the national level, for example, to establish centralized systems. Therefore, an important aspect of the target setting process – starting with the baseline analysis – is also to seek solutions for local problems and look for decentralized approaches. One example is the use of small individual and/or collective systems of improved sanitation (e.g. dry ECOSAN toilets, constructed wetlands, septic tanks, or other technologies).

### 2.2.3 Task III: Identification and prioritisation of problems

The baseline analysis of the existing legal framework (national and international), the environmental and health situation in Armenia as well as the existing administrative, institutional, managerial and financial frameworks are at the root of tasks III: “identification and prioritisation of problems”.

First of all, an agreement has to be reached (and substantiated by the Steering Committee) which of the 20 Target Areas are relevant for Armenia. Obviously, a target related to “production and harvesting of shellfish” does not apply to Armenia as a landlocked country, and “aquaculture” is of minor economic importance as it is still limited to the supply of some restaurants in upstream river valleys with fish.<sup>7</sup>

Secondly, the baseline analysis usually points to some 10-20 water management or health issues that would fall under one specific Target Area, thus challenging the stakeholders to come up with some 150 targets and/or proposed measures for all 20 Target Areas altogether.

Thus, during tasks III particular attention is to be given to “reduce” the targets to a reasonable number. This can be done by assuming that the setting of a specific target under one Target Area would also help solving an issue that falls under another Target Area, i.e. to come up with so-called “multi-purpose” targets. An example of such a multipurpose target is the requirement “to reduce the discharge of partially treated wastewater by a given percentage”, which would be of relevance to the Target Areas dealing with

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<sup>7</sup> See Target Area XVI: Quality of waters used for aquaculture and for the production and harvesting of shellfish

wastewater treatment, the quality of waters used as a source of drinking water, and the quality of bathing water.

Another important aspect of the prioritisation of problems is the consideration whether there are already on-going or planned activities, for example, under national action plans or international assistance programmes, which are directed to solving a given problem. This requires consultations with those responsible for these national or international programmes, ideally through the Steering Committee. Moreover, it is important to clarify whether an identified problem is strictly related to issues to be dealt with under the Protocol on Water and Health – and in this case it should be taken up - or whether an identified problem would fall under other international agreements on environmental and health issues; thus excluding it from the target setting process under the Protocol.

#### 2.2.4 Task IV: Agreement on draft targets, programme of measures and indicators

Reaching an agreement on draft targets, a draft programme of measures and draft indicators<sup>8</sup> is an iterative process, which usually starts with some preliminary suggestions considered by the Steering Committee at its first meeting and some revisions/updates taken up at the next meetings. Account should be taken of the fact that a consultative mechanism is established under the UNECE-FinWaterWEI project to involve the NGO community and its particular expertise in the target setting process related to rural areas, small systems of water supply and sanitation and the involvement of women.

#### 2.2.5 Task V: Broad consultation on proposed targets and relevant programme of measures

The target setting process requires broad consultations with all relevant stakeholders, and article 6, paragraph 2, specifically calls for the establishment of a transparent and fair framework for public participation. This aim needs to be achieved by the Steering Committee and the specific consultations with the NGO community.

Moreover, the Stakeholders meetings should be open to representatives of the media, who may report to the general public on the basis of the meetings' deliberations, press releases and other promotion material.

#### 2.2.6 Task VI: Final agreement on targets and their publication and communication to all stakeholders

It is expected that the final version of the targets, target dates and proposed measures will become part of an official Governmental Document, most likely a Joint Ministerial Order.

#### 2.2.7 Task VII: Implementation of the programme of measures

This part of the target setting process does not fall under the project.

However, the Governmental Document should lay down the obligations, which the Steering Committee for the National Policy Dialogue process and the relevant ministries will have after project finalization.

#### 2.2.8 Task VIII: Review and assessment of progress and reporting

This part of the target setting process does also not fall under the project.

A substantive progress report is to be prepared by Armenia on its own (not as a constituent part of the targets setting project) and to be submitted in 2013 to the third Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

#### 2.2.9 Task IX: Stakeholder involvement

The involvement of stakeholders is a key requirement for a successful project implementation. Major steps were highlighted above.

#### 2.2.10 Task X: Revision of targets

This part of the target setting process does also not fall under the project.

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<sup>8</sup> The Guidelines give four general indicators; two related to public health (WatSan\_S2 and WatSan\_S3), and two related to water management (water-quality classification and water use)

The targets and target dates will have to be drawn up in a pragmatic way, noting the good potential of the country to achieve them together with the assistance of the international community.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

#### **Overall objective/impact:**

To improve the ability of the Government of Armenia to comply with provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health and to develop targets, target dates and measures to assist Armenian authorities in implementing requirements of the Protocol, thus to promote at national level the protection of life and health of the public both in terms of individual and collective aspects, as well as to improve the management and use of water resources, including the protection of ecosystems, to improve safe water supply and discharge, and to control and reduce water-related diseases.

#### **Specific objectives/impact:**

- To provide assistance to Armenia in setting and publishing national and/or local targets for standards and levels of performance that need to be achieved or maintained in order to ensure a high level of protection of human health and wellbeing, to improve access to safe water and ensure safe sanitation as well as sustainable management of water resources, including the development and approval of agreed, with the participation of all competent national organizations, measures.
- To facilitate the ratification by Armenia of the Protocol, by providing a forum for policy dialogue and decision-making on the issue of the Protocol and for the development of a roadmap for ratification to be discussed and agreed by all concerned national authorities.

#### **Outcomes and outputs:**

Outcome 1: Strengthened capacity of the Government of Armenia to implement targets and proposed measures to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation

- ⇒ Output 1: Action Plan to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, including a Roadmap for ratification of the Protocol
- ⇒ Output 2: Governmental Document approving the list of targets and targets dates and the proposed measures to implement the Protocol on Water and Health

Outcome 2: Enhanced implementation capacities and improved outreach, including public access to water-and-health related information and public awareness

- ⇒ Output 3: Technical reports on the relevant for Armenia Target Areas
- ⇒ Output 4: Publication on targets, target dates and proposed measures to improve efficiency of water management, and achieve safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
- ⇒ Output 5: Promotion material

Outcome 3: Enabling project environment

- ⇒ Output 6: Established partnerships and platforms for policy dialogue and decision-making on the improvement of the legal, strategic and managerial frameworks for water and health

#### **Other countries' and international assistance projects and programmes:**

Under each output, note will be taken of the terms of reference, outputs and activities of other applicable assistance projects in the water and sanitation sector and other countries/organizations (e.g. infrastructure projects financed by countries).

#### **Project duration:**

18 months, starting ideally in July 2012 with a project kick-off meeting, the drawing up of the Action Plan and step-by-step implementation of the other priority activities that fall under outcomes 1 to 3.

### **3.1 Strengthened capacity of the Government of Armenia to implement targets and proposed measures to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation**

- ⇒ Output 1: Action Plan to ensure sustainable water management, access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, including a Roadmap for ratification of the Protocol
- ⇒ Output 2: Governmental Document<sup>9</sup> approving the list of targets and targets dates under the Protocol on Water and Health

#### *Rationale for the activity*

The Action Plan, based on the approved by Government targets and target dates, is a detailed plan for management and joint activities until 2020, and a tool for identifying additional human resources and potential additional sources of funding. Unless Armenia has not ratified the Protocol by the end of the project, the Action Plan will contain a “Roadmap” describing obligations of competent Armenian authorities in the ratification process and steps to be undertaken by a given timeline.

The Governmental Document is the legal basis for the drawing up and implementation of the Action Plan.

The Action Plan and the Governmental Document:

- Establish priorities and integrate measures to comply with the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health, respecting the national procedures for planning, implementation and financing measures on water management, water supply, sanitation and other areas for which targets and target dates have been set and/or measures developed;
- Estimate costs for implementing targets and identify the sources of finance;
- Provide the basis for continuous monitoring and evaluation of compliance with the Protocol on Water and Health, once Armenia is a Party to it;
- Provide the basis for a continuous national policy dialogue, for example, within the UNECE/OECD-led National Policy Dialogue process under the EU Water Initiative to sustain progress in the area of water and health;
- Provide a means to further develop and specify the mid-term (2015) and long-term (2020) actions under the 2006 Law on the National Water Programme, and a means to draw up a National Water Programme beyond 2020;
- Support the coordination of activities amongst donors in Armenia, by indicating which donors are active in respective target areas and which assistance projects are contributing, will or could contribute to progress towards the implementation of the Action Plan and the established targets and measures.
- Establish responsibilities for the implementation of targets and the proposed measures.

#### *Implementation*

The drawing up of the Action Plan and the Governmental Document is subject to existing Armenian rules and requirements for policy documents.

Both activities require public debates, including consultations with the water and sanitation operators and other bodies, which have to implement the measures set out in the Action Plan at later stage. Public debates will also help in the drawing up and the implementation of the Action Plan and the Governmental Document.

This activity will require mapping the activities of other donors active in the water management, water supply and sanitation sector in Armenia to identify possible matches for targets requiring donor funding or co-funding for implementation.

#### *Leadership*

The drawing up of the Action Plan and the Governmental Document is a complex activity as it involves several ministries and institutions, the private sector as well as the NGO community. It requires strong leadership by the Ministry of Nature Protection and the Ministry of Health – as coordination with other

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<sup>9</sup> Given the forthcoming elections in Armenia, the project document uses the term “Governmental Document”; the exact title can only be established after the elections.

ministries and the private sector is concerned – and expertise in the development of implementation scenarios.

UNECE will provide guidance to the development of the Action Plan and the Governmental Document through its facilitative role, in the framework of the meetings of the Steering Group, inter-ministerial consultations or other meetings with stakeholder. UNECE will build on other countries' experience and consult with those resource persons who have successfully assisted their countries to move from the establishment of targets to the implementation, as it was the case with Finland, Hungary and the Republic of Moldova.

#### *Target group*

The target group includes:

- Public authorities responsible for water management, safe drinking water supply and adequate sanitation (ministries, agencies, institutions, local governments);
- Water utilities' and sanitation facilities' operators and Water Associations;
- Consumers of water and sanitation services, in particular those who do not yet receive adequate water supply and sanitation services as stipulated by the Protocol on Water and Health, including women, children and female staff in schools and similar institutions, the rural population, people who are particularly vulnerable to water-related disease and those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion.

#### *Impact hypothesis*

In addition to the aspects provided under *Rationale for the Activity*, the Action Plan will overcome uncertainties in the implementation of targets laid down in the Governmental Document, including uncertainties that relate to responsibilities and the sources of finance. It will also lay down responsibilities and measures to be undertaken after the finalization of the UNECE-FINWaterWei project (see section 4.4. on sustainability).

#### *Geographical area of intervention*

The geographical area of intervention is the entire territory of Armenia.

### **3.2 Enhanced implementation capacities and improved outreach, including public access to water-and-health related information and public awareness**

- ⇒ Output 3: Technical reports on the relevant for Armenia Target Areas
- ⇒ Output 4: Publication on targets, target dates and proposed measures to improve efficiency of water management, and achieve safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
- ⇒ Output 5: Promotion material

#### *Rationale for the activity*

Technical reports on the relevant for Armenia target areas will present the results of the baseline analysis and other related studies. One technical report will examine: (a) the current situation and problems related to the Target Areas, including water and/or health related issues, issues of management, and availability of information; and (b) the economic capacity to deal with the current situation and problems. Another technical report will contain the analysis of the legal, administrative and institutional set up related to water management, water supply and sanitation, including the health-related aspects. Both reports will analyse, as appropriate gender issues.

These technical reports provide the main basis for the work of the Steering Committee and the consultations with other competent stakeholders; they also provide the basis for the drawing up the Action Plan and the Governmental Document.



The publication on targets, target dates and proposed measures will present the final results of the project to interested parties and the general public. It will contain, as appropriate, a summary of the baseline analysis and other studies as well as the Action Plan and the Governmental Document.

“Promotion material” includes information to be provided on the Web sites of Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Health, two leaflets (one issued at the beginning of the project, the other at the end of the project), and public relations work (e.g. preparation of press releases, granting of interviews) in conjunction with Steering Committee meetings

#### *Implementation and leadership*

All three outputs are to be drawn up by the members of the Working Group under the leadership of UNECE and the Head of the Water Resources Management Agency. They will be presented to the Steering Committee that is expected to provide its consent with these outputs.

#### *Target group*

The target group for output 3 includes:

- Public authorities responsible for water management, safe drinking water supply and adequate sanitation (ministries, agencies, institutions, local governments);
- Water utilities' and sanitation facilities' operators and Water Associations.

The target group for outputs 4 and 5 includes, in addition to the above:

- Consumers of water and sanitation services, in particular those who do not yet receive adequate water supply and sanitation services as stipulated by the Protocol on Water and Health, including women, children and female staff in schools and similar institutions, the rural population, people who are particularly vulnerable to water-related disease and those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion;
- Parties and non-Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

#### *Impact hypothesis*

All three outputs (output 3 to 5) respond to two basic requirements of the Protocol on Water and Health, namely: (a) to promote understanding of the public-health aspects of their work by those responsible for water management, water supply and sanitation; and (b) to promote understanding of the basic principles of water management, water supply and sanitation by those responsible for public health (article 9, paragraph 2). They also provide the most urgently needed ways and means to overcome the most prominent deficiencies in the work of service providers, including inadequate professional skills of personnel and low service quality and performance level.

Outputs 4 and 5 are a means of better informing the urban and rural population, including women, and the other target groups (see above) about their rights to water and sanitation services as well as their obligations to protect the sources of water supply.

#### *Geographical area of intervention*

The geographical area of intervention is the entire territory of Armenia.

### **3.4 Enabling project environment**

- ⇒ Output 6: Established partnerships and platforms for policy dialogue and decision-making on the improvement of the legal, strategic and managerial frameworks for water and health

#### *Rationale for the activity*

The project, consisting of various components, needs to be managed in its entirety spanning 18 months. Project management entails:

- The drawing up the required project documentation;
- The identification of project partners with respective expertise, including international and local consultants, information about the project at the national level (Armenia) and UNECE-wide, clarification regarding the roles and responsibilities for project implementation, and insurance of the availability of partners/experts at appropriate project phases;
- Monitoring the implementation of the different project components and activities respecting the budget for the project;
- Ensuring delivery of project outputs.

### *Implementation and leadership*

UNECE will assure the overall management of the project. The UNECE secretariat is well positioned to act as project coordinator and implementing agency due to its substantive expertise on water and health in the pan-European region, its project management capacity as well as its networks of competent experts and national focal points.

Target setting and reporting, and public participation are key areas of the programme of work 2011-2013 of the Protocol on Water and Health, whose implementation is jointly coordinated by UNECE and WHO/EURO performing joint secretariat functions for the Protocol. UNECE and WHO/EURO together with lead countries have developed guidance material, notably the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting* and the publication *Small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region - Background, Challenges, Improvements*. Guidance on public participation in target setting on water and health as well as policy guidance on small-scale water supplies and sanitation will be developed in the course of 2012. The methodologies set forth in these publications and the experiences from other Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health regarding the implementation of targets will benefit UNECE's role as overall project manager, identifying and associating respective experts and knowledge to the different project components.

### *Target group*

The target group includes representatives of ministries, agencies, institutions, local governments, water and sanitation utilities' operators and members of the public as well as national experts in the field of water and health.

Experience gained will be used in other countries that are currently in the process of setting targets under the Protocol (e.g. Georgia and Kyrgyzstan).

### *Impact hypothesis*

The project, including several ministries and agencies as well as other partners will be managed by UNECE over a project period of 18 months. With a revised and broader composition of the Steering Committee, and the commitment for project implementation expressed at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee by its representatives as well as cooperation arrangements between UNECE, OECD and the Armenian ministries – laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding on the National Policy Dialogue process - will guarantee a smooth and efficient implementation of the UNECE-FinWaterWEI project.

### *Geographical area of intervention*

The geographical area of intervention is the entire territory of Armenia.

## **4. IMPLEMENTING STRATEGY**

### **4.1 Intervention approach**

UNECE will act as implementing agency for the project.

The intervention approach described below draws inspirations from a similar project, financed by Switzerland and conducted in the Republic of Moldova from August 2009 to March 2011, and projects carried out in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan under the respective policy dialogue processes on integrated water resources management, with financial contributions by Finland.

## 4.2 Main partner organizations and cooperation and coordination

### *Main project partners*

The UNECE-FinWaterWei project will involve as major project partners:

- The Ministry of Nature Protection and its Water Resources Management Agency;
- The Ministry of Health and its State Hygiene Inspectorate;
- The Ministry of Territorial Administration and its State Committee for Water Systems;
- The NGO Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment.

The rationale for proposing these main project partners mostly stems for the Armenian legislation, which provides for new legal, administrative, and institutional systems that became operational in the water sector from 2002 onwards, as well as the good experience gained with the involvement of these partners in the National Policy Dialogue process.

Annex II provides an overview of responsibilities of these main project partners and Armenian stakeholders under the 20 Target Areas.

The specific competence of the main project partners can be summarized as follows:

- The Ministry of Nature Protection and its Water Resources Management Agency are responsible for the management and protection of water resources. Under the Agency, five territorial divisions (Water Basin Management Authorities) have been established that are responsible for the development of river basin management plans; registration of, and compliance monitoring with, water use permits; the protection of water resources; and the development of water resources allocation plans for the five territorial areas;
- The Ministry of Territorial Administration and its State Committee on Water Systems are governmental bodies responsible for the management of water systems at the level of the State. In particular, the development and implementation of the State policy on management and use of state-owned water systems falls under the responsibility of the State Committee on Water Systems. The State Committee on Water Systems implements its tasks based on the Water Code, the Law on the National Water Programme, the Law on Fundamental Provisions regarding the National Water Policy, and Government Resolutions regarding the Reformation of the Water Sector (including the Poverty Reduction Strategic Programme);
- The provision of sanitary-epidemiological safety of the Armenian population and corresponding enforcement functions are the responsibility of the State Hygiene Inspectorate of the Ministry of Health. The inspectorate's tasks include the prevention, control and reduction of outbreaks of communicable and non-communicable diseases and the identification and prevention of violations of sanitary safety rules in Armenia. The Inspectorate has structural units (Centres) and regional bodies (Expertise Centres) all over the country, which, for example, receive notification about each case of infectious diseases (including water-related diseases), monitor the quality of drinking-water, and are engaged in activities to detect the cause of outbreaks and to contain and eliminate them;
- The NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) was founded in 1999 as an organization working for sustainable rural development, protection of human health and the environment, and poverty reduction. The organization involves experienced specialists on epidemiology, hygiene, toxicology and environmental protection. The NGO promotes the solution of problems related to health and the environment; provides independent monitoring, risk assessment and scientific investigations of water supply and sanitation. It contributes to capacity building of rural communities; strengthens the participation of women in decision-making at local and national levels. conducts awareness-raising and information campaigns. The NGO regularly attends meetings under the Protocol on Water and Health and has contributed to the drafting of Guidelines on target setting and Guidelines on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events.

### *Cooperation and coordination: NGO community*

The NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) is expected to steer the consultation process with other Armenian NGOs. These include:

- The NGO Environmental Survival, which mainly contributes to biodiversity conservation in Armenia and the entire South Caucasus region and the rehabilitation of water resources quality in Armenia through scientific research, expertise, advocacy campaigns and publications;
- The scientific and ecological NGO "Country Water Partnership", which as a GWP partner and member of other international networks assists in the introduction and implementation of integrated water resources management principles in Armenia;
- The Lore Ecological Club, whose projects are directed towards environmental conservation, better management of water and natural resources, ecological education and raising environmental awareness and responsiveness of the local population, best practices in ecological management, protection of woodlands and projects in low income communities aiming at alleviation of extreme poverty.

To this end, the project foresees a specific mechanism – a Coordination meeting of NGO representatives - under the leadership of NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE). Three coordination meetings will give the NGOs an opportunity to comprehensively prepare themselves for the Steering Committee and Working Group meetings and entrust the representatives of the NGO AWHHE to speak on their behalf at these meetings. The NGO community is also expected to prepare and table working documents related to the target setting process.

*Cooperation and coordination: Governmental bodies, private sector and rural communities*

Representatives of the Water Resources Management Agency and the State Committee on Water systems are expected to steer the consultation process with such other stakeholders as:

- Stakeholders on drinking water supply and sanitation services;
- Stakeholders in rural communities; and
- Stakeholders on irrigational waters.

As to drinking water supply and sanitation services, these stakeholders include five large companies, which provide centralized drinking-water supply and sanitation services in Armenia. Consultations will be held, as appropriate, with them by members of the Working Group and the Steering Committee.

As to rural communities, these include stakeholders in around 560 rural communities in Armenia, which are “self-supplied” through local springs and other sources. Drinking-water supply in those communities is being organized by the communities themselves or by community level organizations. These communities are outside of the service areas of large water supply companies, and have been largely left outside of investment, technical assistance and other projects implemented in Armenia over the past ten years. Unlike for large companies, issues related to drinking-water service provision (tariff, minimum water supply criteria and other issues) are not regulated for these communities. Institutional structures in charge of operation and maintenance of drinking-water systems are largely absent. Consultations will be held, as appropriate, with their representatives by members of the Working Group and the Steering Committee.

As to irrigation water supply, there are three companies acting in the Sevan-Hrazdan, Akhuryan-Araks, and Debed-Aghstev basins, and 44 water users associations in charge of irrigational water supply. Consultations will be held, as appropriate, with their representatives by members of the Working Group and the Steering Committee.

### **4.3 Gender approach**

Taking into account the cross-cutting themes<sup>10</sup> of the Finnish developing policy, a gender sensitive approach to water management, water supply, sanitation and health will be followed under the UNECE-FinWaterWei project to promote the integration of gender as a social determinant into policy development, water-and-health services, resource allocation and project and programme planning, monitoring and implementation.

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<sup>10</sup> Promotion of the rights and the status of women and girls, and promotion of gender and social equality; promotion of the rights of groups that are easily excluded and discriminated, particularly children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, and the promotion of equal opportunities for participation; combating HIV/AIDS (HIV/AIDS as a health problem and as a social problem)

In the development of targets and target dates, the drawing up of proposed measures, and awareness-raising activities, account will be taken of women as an important constituent of the rural population, who has special needs regarding water and sanitation services, with regard to quality, quantity and access.

Gender-sensitive indicators have been chosen to monitor the reaching out to women by the project as they have been identified as the major beneficiaries.

As women are often not as equally represented within decision making processes, there will be a special effort to encourage their participation in awareness raising events. To ensure that all women's roles are taken into consideration by decision makers, a special effort will be made to bring women into policy discussions on water supply and sanitation, including in the context of the project. Care will be taken that there are women representatives in the Working Group and the Steering Committee meetings and that they will have space and opportunities to highlight women's roles and reflect upon the implications for women (as well as men) of any planned activities under the project and beyond, with the objective of improving access to water and sanitation services and their quality and reliability.

Women's needs regarding water and sanitation are often greater than men's, not only due to their own sanitary requirements (regarding privacy at water points and clean sanitation facilities that cover their specific needs) but also as they traditionally bear the primary burden of cooking and other household chores for which safe water is a prerequisite. Furthermore, women play an essential role in childcare, promoting hygiene and a sustainable approach to the use of water resources with the next generations.

#### **4.4 Sustainability**

The implementation of the Action Plan will span an initial period up to 2020 given the targets and target dates and proposed measures to be laid down in the expected Governmental Document. In order to ensure sustainability after the finalization of the UNECE-FinWaterWei project, the foreseen Action Plan and Governmental Document will lay down the obligations, which the Steering Committee for the National Policy Dialogue process and the relevant ministries will have after project finalization.

#### **4.5 End of project vision and exit strategy**

It is likely that during the work on the Action Plan and the other project components the need for further specifications of the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health may arise that may lead to follow up projects.

For the time being, two possible closely interlinked themes for follow up were identified in the discussions of the Steering Committee on 11 April 2012:

- Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system to assess the impact of the targets set and the measures undertaken on the status of water resources, water supply and sanitation and public health;
- Investigation of risk factors for water- and sanitation-related diseases through an integrated screening approach in selected villages and river basins in Armenia as a pre-condition to assess the impact of interventions on improved water supply and sanitation on water-related diseases in Armenia.

If relevant and possible within available resources, by the end of the UNECE-FinwaterWei project, a more specific description of these or other possible follow up projects will be laid down in a project Concept Note and will be subject to discussion with the Government of Finland and other potential donors. This Concept Note will be drawn up by UNECE in consultation with the members of the Working Group.

## **5. ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **5.1 Time frame and tentative breakdown of the project**

The UNECE-FinWaterWei project has an initial time frame of 18 months, ideally starting in July 2012. The activities that fall under the project have a different starting date and duration as shown in Annex III.

As the administrative and contractual arrangements are not in place, and the Working Group needs to be established at the very start of the project, a "kick-off meeting" with representatives of the Ministry of Nature

Protection/Water Resources Management Agency, the Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems, the Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate and the NGO Women for Health and a Healthy Environment will be held at the beginning of the project to agree on the details of programme management and the drawing up of essential documentation (e.g. Action Plan, Governmental Document, Technical reports on target setting), and the drawing up of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, the Ministry of Nature Protection and the Ministry of Health. The first Steering Committee meeting under the project is likely to take place in fall 2012.

#### 5.2.1 Organizational structure and steering mechanism

The project will be carried out by UNECE as implementing agency. Representatives of ministries and agencies, the private sector (e.g. water supply and sanitation operators) and NGOs will be represented in the Steering Committee and other groups established for programme implementation (see section 5.2.2).

#### 5.2.2 Roles, tasks and responsibilities

##### *Steering Committee*

The Steering Committee, which was established under the National Policy Dialogue in Armenia in 2007 as a high level, multi-stakeholder body to oversee activities on integrated water resources management (with UNECE as key strategic partner) and water supply, sanitation and financing (with OECD as key strategic partner) will continue to function in a revised and broader composition. The Terms of reference and composition of the Steering Committee, its joint leadership by the Water Resources Management Agency and the State Hygiene Inspectorate, and its tasks will be laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Following the recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for the National Policy Dialogue, the revised composition of the Steering Committee should be as follows:

- Ministry of Nature Protection;
- Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection;
  
- Ministry of Territorial Administration;
- State Committee on Water Systems of the Ministry of Territorial Administration;
- Local self-governance authorities of the Ministry of Territorial Administration;
  
- Ministry of Health;
- State Hygiene Inspectorate of the Ministry of Health;
  
- Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources;
- Ministry of Agriculture;
- Ministry of Finance;
- Ministry of Justice (on an ad hoc basis, if the final Governmental Document so requires);
- Ministry of Emergency Situations;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Government of Armenia/representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers;
  
- Local Governmental Administration (on an ad hoc basis, if specific issues do not fall under the responsibility of the Local self-governance authorities of the Ministry of Territorial Administration;
  
- Representatives of the private sector, operating water supply and sanitation facilities in Armenia;
  
- A representative of the NGO community.

Other competent stakeholders, including representatives of UNECE, WHO/EURO, OECD and representatives of international/bilateral assistance programmes will take part in the Steering Committee meetings as non-voting participants.

The Head of the Water Resources Management Agency and the Head of the State Hygiene Inspectorate will co-chair the Steering Committee meetings.

Around 50-60 participants will meet at a Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee will meet 3 times over the entire project duration.<sup>11</sup>

### *Working Group*

A Working Group, chaired by UNECE and the Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, will be established to facilitate the overall project management by UNECE.

This Working Group is responsible for substantive work under the project (e.g. baseline analysis and other studies, Technical reports, Final publication, communications to the public), the drawing up of draft targets, target dates and draft proposed measures as well as the drafting of the Action Plan and the Governmental Document. Guidance on the preparation of documents, including documents for decision-making by the Steering Committee and the follow up of these meetings will be provided by UNECE.

Members of the Working Group include:

### Chairpersons

- Representative of the UNECE secretariat
- Deputy Head of the Water Resources Management Agency

### Experts

- 1 expert on water supply issues in urban and rural areas, including financial aspects thereof;
- 1 expert on sanitation issues in urban and rural areas, including financial aspects thereof;
- 1 expert on water management issues (development, use and protection of water resources, financing water resources management);
- 1 expert on water management issues arising in other sectors and cross-cutting issues (e.g. forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, energy production, and mining; extreme and emergency situations) ;
- 1 expert on health issues (water-related diseases, drinking water, bathing water);
- 1 expert on local health/sanitation issues, small scale water supply and sanitation facilities and stakeholder participation;
- 1 international consultant with expertise on the target setting activities in general, and the target setting projects in Moldova, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.

The Working Group may invite other national stakeholders as appropriate to carry on the project components' activities. A representative of Finland will also be invited to participate.

The Working Group will meet 5 times over the entire project duration; three meetings will be held back-to-back with Steering Committee meetings.<sup>12</sup>

### *Coordination meeting of NGO representatives*

As described in section 4.2, such coordination meetings will give the NGO community an opportunity to prepare for Steering Committee and Working Group meetings. At least the following NGOs – under the coordination of the NGO AWHHE – will participate in these meetings:

- NGO Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE);
- NGO Environmental Survival;
- NGO "Country Water Partnership;
- The Lore Ecological Club.

It is strongly recommended that the Chairpersons of the Steering Committee attend one or more coordination meetings.

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<sup>11</sup> The Steering Group may hold more meetings, if financed through Armenian project contributions.

<sup>12</sup> The Working Group may hold more meetings, if financed through Armenian project contributions.

### *Consultations of UNECE with SYKE*

Consultations of UNECE with SYKE will be held regularly, most appropriately in conjunction with Steering Committee meetings. These consultations will also help SYKE in its internal reviews and evaluations. UNECE and SYKE will jointly decide whether issues that cannot be addressed satisfactorily by the Steering Committee need to be raised at the level of the Ministers.

### *Consultations of UNECE and SYKE with the Minister of Nature Protection and the Minister of Health*

At least two consultations will be held, one at the beginning of the project to sign the Memorandum of Understanding; and one at the end of the project. More consultations may be scheduled, if UNECE and SYKE so suggest to address issues that cannot be handled by the Steering Committee (see above) or to raise specific issues that require consideration by the Ministers for Nature Protection and the Minister for Health.

### *Involvement of a non-profit organization to provide meeting logistics*

A competent NGO will provide its services to the organization of Working Group meetings and Steering Committee meetings and be responsible for the organization of interpretation and translation services and the printing of project leaflets and publications.

The Terms of Reference for “meeting logistics” will be laid down in a Grant Agreement between UNECE and this NGO as explained in section 5.3.

### **5.2.3 Level of intervention of UNECE**

The “level of intervention” of UNECE in activities that fall under the project’s components is on the macro-scale (intervention vis-à-vis the competent ministries/agencies) and the meso-scale (interventions into activities of the Working Group and the Steering Committee).

Interventions at the micro-scale are limited to activities on meeting logistics by a competent Armenian NGO.

## **5.3 Contracting of project components**

### *Contracting of UNECE*

The present project document is expected to become part of an agreement between the Government of Finland and UNECE on the implementation of the target setting process in Armenia.

### *Contracting of consultants*

The contracting of national and international consultants by UNECE will follow applicable UN rules and procedures.

### *Contracting of grants recipients*

The contracting of a grantee that will take care of practical arrangements of the project by UNECE will follow applicable UN rules and procedures.

## **5.4 Administrative arrangements**

Administrative arrangements (e.g. accounting, financial management) are governed by rules and procedures of the United Nations.

## **6. RESOURCES**

The estimated resources required for the implementation of the project with all its components, along with the local contribution and the co-financing by UNECE are set out in annex IV. .



The resource estimates are based on the estimates for activities as indicated during a consultation with the Armenian Water Resources Management Agency and other Armenian stakeholders (Yerevan, 10-12 April 2012) and estimates of the timing and costs of activities proposed. The commitment of national human and financial resources will be confirmed in the Memorandum of Understanding (see above).

## **7. RISK ANALYSIS**

The implementation of the UNECE-FinWaterWei project requires appropriate action to minimize risks associated with the various outcomes, outputs and activities (see the logical framework in Part II).

Risks will be monitored by UNECE and managed in the first instance by the Chairpersons of the Steering Committee (see section 7.2). To minimize the risks, it is also foreseen that the Minister for Nature Protection and the Minister of Health should meet at least annually (or if the situation so requires, more often) with SYKE and UNECE to facilitate and secure project implementation, including project continuation in extraordinary situations, such as changes in Government and/or its political agendas on national level in disfavour of provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health and/or the present project document. This also applies to measures needed to counteract adverse effects of changes of the economic situation in the country leading to loss of expertise and capacities of key actors involved in the project.

Two aspects deserve special attention, as further elaborated below: risks related to the provision of sufficient human and financial resources of the Government, and risks related to project management.

### **7.1 Assumptions and risk as to financing**

With the signing of the Protocol on Water and Health by the Armenian Government in 1999 and the submission of a project proposal to the AHPFM established under the Protocol on Water and Health, the competent Armenian ministries and agencies have certain commitments and cannot expect that the Finnish Government and UNECE would bear the entire costs linked to the target setting and implementation process.

SYKE and UNECE assume that the Government of Armenia allocates sufficient human and financial resources for the implementation of the UNECE-FinWaterWEI project from the national budget including such special funds as Armenian national or regional development funds in addition to the resources requested through Finnish funding and in-kind contributions by UNECE.

Governmental contributions should at least include: (a) staff time of senior ministerial and agencies' staff; (b) expenditures related to data collection, field surveys and monitoring and data evaluation; (c) travel costs of representatives of official national bodies (e.g. ministries, agencies) to Steering Committee and other meetings; (d) expenditures for such hardware as computers that may be needed for governmental staff; (e) expenditures for communication; and (f) expenditures for office rent, insurance, security and other related purposes.

National contributions are based on an initial plan for project implementation developed by Armenian representatives in 2009. This initial plan had been further developed following consultations on 10-12 April 2012 with the Water Resources Management Agency and other competent stakeholders that participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee on the National Policy Dialogue (11 April 2012).

To ensure such commitment, at the onset of the project - through a Memorandum of Understanding - is assumed that Armenian will make a clear commitment regarding its Ministries' and agencies' contribution in terms of staff time and financial resources.

### **7.2 Assumptions and risk as to project management**

The Government of Armenia is not yet a Party to the Protocol on Water and Health; it is assumed that the Government has the political will to implement on an interim basis the Protocol's provisions, in particular, the provisions in article 6 and article 7. It is also assumed that the Government is willing to speed up the ratification process alongside the measures set out in the envisaged Action Plan, including the roadmap for the ratification process. Changes of the Government and/or its political agendas on national level in disfavour of provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health, the present project document and the on-going ratification process may particularly put the outputs 1 and 2 at risk.

It is assumed that the project partners have proven experience in drafting and conducting inter-ministerial consultations on Governmental Decrees/Orders and in drafting of supporting documentation required by law. It is therefore important that the Steering Committee will be led by senior representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Health. It is also assumed that the Steering Committee and Working Group members are committed to support good project management by UNECE and participate, as appropriate, in regular consultations as laid down in the envisaged Memorandum of Understanding. Change of political and economic situation in the country leading to loss of expertise and capacities of key actors involved in the project, may particularly put the outputs 3 to 5 at risk.

It is assumed that the members of the Working Group have proven experience on the legal, institutional, managerial and other frameworks in Armenia related to issues regulated under the Protocol. Insufficient records of data pertaining to economic and financial matters may constitute a risk in substantiation the reasoning for setting particular targets and/or drawing up implementation measures.

It is further assumed that donors in Armenia are willing to participate in the donor mapping exercise and provide information on their respective projects. The Steering Committee is the appropriate forum to challenge these donors to be involved in the project's activities, as appropriate. It is also assumed that scientific/technical advice will be provided by foreign experts (e.g. Finland, Hungary and Republic of Moldova), staff of UNECE, WHO/EURO and OECD as well as members of the Protocol's Working Groups/Task Forces and UNECE's international consultant.

Given rules and procedures of UNECE concerning sub-contracting, the willingness of a non-profit organization (e.g. NGO) is essential to assist UNECE and its project partners in project implementation, particularly through meeting logistics and preparations of publications. This should not constitute a risk for project management as UNECE has already worked since 2007 with different non-profit organizations regarding meeting logistics.

To avoid risks enumerated above (and specified for the various outcomes/outputs in the Logical Framework), it is of utmost importance to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding and to organize, if need be, consultations with senior officials, as suggested in the above Chapters.

## 8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Reports on activities and Funds Utilization reports (Expenditure Reports) in the currency of the budget will be delivered on the dates outlined below (Table), showing extra budgetary income and expenditure inclusive of UNECE's programme support costs.

UNECE shall, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and Ministry's and SYKE's instructions, provide the Ministry and SYKE with a written Final report on the implementation of the Activities and a certified final Funds Utilisation Report within three (3) months of the completion of the activities financed by the Ministry as indicated in the Table below, period 2. The report shall include a certified financial statement on the use of the contribution.

Should the External Board of Auditors to the United Nations as appointed by the General Assembly make any observations on the use of funds provided, a copy of the audit report shall be sent to the Ministry with an official statement by UNECE.

Activity period, number	Reporting	Project activity period	Report's due date
1	Interim report	1 July 2012 – 31 May 2013	30 June 2013
2	Final report	1 July 2012 – 31 Dec 2013	31 March 2014

In addition to the formal reports defined above, UNECE shall deliver a short project progress report. This report shall be delivered by 31 December 2012 (covering the project period 1 July to 30 November 2012)

## Annex I

### DATA AND INFORMATION ON ARMENIA OF RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

#### 1. Water resources

Water resources of Armenia mainly originate within the territory of the country and constitute approximately 46.7 billion m<sup>3</sup>, of which about 35.9 billion m<sup>3</sup> is the national water reserve, 1.7 billion m<sup>3</sup> is the strategic water reserve, and the usable water resources are 9.1 billion m<sup>3</sup>. The annual river flow is approximately 6.8 billion m<sup>3</sup>, and the annual deep groundwater inflow is 0.6 billion m<sup>3</sup>. There are significant temporal and spatial imbalances in water resources availability in the country. In addition to annual fluctuations, significant seasonal variations in river flow volumes occur. About 55% of total river flow originates in spring, during the snowmelt and rain periods; and the ratio of the maximum and minimum flows in normal hydrological years can be as big as 10:1.

#### 2. Water use

Following recent studies by OECD under the National Policy Dialogue process, Armenia's Water Exploitation Index (WEI) is 45%; thus Armenia is a water-stressed country as its WEI exceeds 40%.

Armenia's water use by sector is as follows:

<b>Water use in Armenia in million m<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>
Agriculture	897	1712.4
Industry	42	127.3
Household and other water supply	107	115.4

*Source: Information by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, submitted to UNECE on 28 April 2010*

#### 3. Quality of drinking water supplied

New requirements for drinking water are embedded in the sanitary norms and rules N2-III-A2-1 of 28 December 2008 on "Drinking water: Requirements for the control of drinking water quality in centralized supply systems". These correspond to the WHO Guidelines. Current information is, however, mostly lacking.

<b>Chemical quality of drinking water – percentage of samples that do not comply with the standards</b>		
<b>Determinands</b>	<b>Initial value (2005)</b>	<b>Current value (2009)</b>
Fluoride	n.a.	n.a.
Nitrate and Nitrite	n.a.	n.a.
Arsenic	n.a.	n.a.
Lead	n.a.	n.a.
Iron	n.a.	n.a.
Total	4.2%	1.6%

*Source: Information by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, submitted to UNECE on 28 April 2010*

<b>Bacteriological quality of drinking water</b>		
<b>Indicator (WatSan_S2)</b>	<b>Initial value (2005)</b>	<b>Current value (2009)</b>
Coliform bacteria	n.a.	n.a.
<i>E. coli</i>	19.59%	17.4%
Enterococci	n.a.	n.a.

*Source: Information by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, submitted to UNECE on 28 April 2010*

The quality, reliability, and efficiency of drinking water supply services have considerably improved in the capital, Yerevan, since 1998.

From 2000 to 2011, water supply has increased from about 7 hours a day to about 18.5 hours a day. In early 2012, more than 56.4% of Yerevan's population had a 24-hour service. Outside Yerevan, in the service area of the Armenian Water Supply Company, the weighted average number of daily hours of drinking water service was 20 hours in 2011.<sup>13</sup>

#### **4. Water-related diseases**

The WHO *Health For All* database reports significantly fewer children under 5 years with diarrhoeal diseases in recent years. .

<b>Age standardised rates, diarrhoeal diseases, under 5 years per 100000</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>SDR, diarrhoeal diseases</b>
1998	29.88
1999	27.32
2000	22.99
2001	16.8
2002	9.1
2003	8.63
2004	n.a.
2005	n.a.
2006	4.16
2007	n.a.
2008	3.52
2009	3.93
2010	n.a.

*Source: WHO Health For All database, most recently accessed on 10 June 2012*

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.armwater.am/file/indicators-2011\\_1\\_en.pdf](http://www.armwater.am/file/indicators-2011_1_en.pdf)

At the same time, intestinal infectious diseases show a slight increase since 2006 (Table 2).

<b>Intestinal infection diseases per 100 000 of population</b>			
Year	2006	2007	2008
Intestinal infections	165.6	167.9	178.7
<i>Source: National Statistical Service of Armenia; data submitted by Armenia to UNECE in June 2009</i>			

Despite obvious improvements, the slight increase in the morbidity in 2008 proves that long term solutions need to be found to provide adequate quantities of safe drinking-water outside the capital.

##### **5. Coverage of water supply and sanitation services**

<b>Access to improved sources of drinking water and improved sanitation</b>									
Year	Population (*1000)			Drinking water			Sanitation		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
2000	1989	1087	3076	98%	81%	92%	95%	77%	89%
2010	1985	1107	3092	99%	97%	98%	95%	80%	90%
<i>Source: published by WHO and UNICEF in <a href="http://www.wssinfo.org/data-estimates/table/">www.wssinfo.org/data-estimates/table/</a>, most recently accessed on 10 June 2012</i>									

Improvement of maintenance, monitoring, and treatment of drinking-water and wastewater infrastructure would help to reduce the potential threat of incidents or outbreaks of waterborne diseases in some areas of Armenia. In addition, Armenia is prone to earthquakes and floods and therefore climate change adaptation to minimize potential vulnerabilities should also be considered.

## Annex II

### Responsibilities of main governmental bodies and Armenian national consultants for the work under the various target areas

In addition to the responsible governmental bodies acting at the national level (see column 3), local authorities bear responsibilities at their respective local levels. Other ministries (e.g. Ministry of Finance/Department for Public Services, Ministry of Emergency Situations, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) as well as representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers do also have certain obligations for some target areas as it is the case with the private sector, the academia and the NGO community. These additional stakeholders are part of the Steering Committee together with representatives of the main responsible governmental bodies.

The table does not specify the names of Armenian experts (national consultants), but indicates their principle areas of work.

Target area	Issue	Main responsible governmental bodies	Armenian expert(s) for baseline analysis
<b>TARGET AREA I</b> Art. 6, 2 (a)	Quality of the drinking water supplied	Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Health issues & Health issues from a NGO perspective
<b>TARGET AREA II</b> Art. 6, 2 (b)	Reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases	Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Health issues & Health issues from a NGO perspective
<b>TARGET AREA III</b> Art. 6, 2 (c)	Access to drinking water	Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Water supply issues (urban and rural areas) & Health issues & Access issues from a NGO perspective
<b>TARGET AREA IV</b> Art. 6, 2 (d)	Access to sanitation	Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Sanitation issues (urban and rural areas) & Health issues & Access issues from a NGO perspective
<b>TARGET AREA V</b> Art. 6, 2 (e), first part	Level of performance of collective and other systems for water supply	Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Water supply issues (urban and rural areas) & Health issues  (This includes the performance under extreme events)

<b>Target area</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Main responsible governmental bodies</b>	<b>Armenian expert(s) for baseline analysis</b>
<b>TARGET AREA VI</b> Art. 6, 2 (e)	Level of performance of collective and other systems for sanitation	Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Sanitation issues (urban and rural areas) & Health issues  (This includes the performance under extreme events)
<b>TARGET AREA VII</b> Art. 6, 2 (f), first part	Application of recognized good practices to the management of water supply	Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Water supply issues (urban and rural areas) & Health issues  (This includes the performance under extreme events)
<b>TARGET AREA VIII</b> Art. 6, 2 (f), second part	Application of recognized good practices to the management of sanitation	Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Sanitation issues (urban and rural areas) & Health issues  (This includes the performance under extreme events)
<b>TARGET AREA IX</b> Art. 6, 2 (g), i	Occurrence of discharges of untreated waste water	Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency & Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems	Water management issues & Sanitation issues (urban and rural areas)
<b>TARGET AREA X</b> Art. 6, 2 (g) (ii)	Occurrence of discharges of untreated storm water overflows from wastewater collection systems to waters within the scope of the Protocol	Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency & Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems	Water management issues & Sanitation issues (urban and rural areas)  (This includes the performance under extreme events)
<b>TARGET AREA XI</b> Art. 6, 2 (h)	Quality of discharges of waste water from wastewater treatment installations to waters within the scope of the Protocol	Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency & Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems	Water management issues & Sanitation issues (urban and rural areas)



<b>Target area</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Main responsible governmental bodies</b>	<b>Armenian expert(s) for baseline analysis</b>
<b>TARGET AREA XII</b> Art. 6, 2 (i), first part	Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation or other sanitation installations	Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency & Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Water management issues & Sanitation issues (urban and rural areas) & Health issues
<b>TARGET AREA XIII</b> Art. 6, 2 (i), second part	Quality of waste water used for irrigation purposes	Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency & Ministry of Territorial Administration/State Committee for Water Systems & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Water management issues & Sanitation issues (urban and rural areas) & Health issues
<b>TARGET AREA XIV</b> Art. 6, 2 (j), first part	Quality of waters which are used as sources for drinking water	Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate & Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency	Health issues & Water management issues & Quality issues from a NGO perspective
<b>TARGET AREA XV</b> Art. 6, 2 (j), second part	Quality of waters used for bathing	Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate & Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency	Health issues & Water management issues & Quality issues from a NGO perspective
<b>TARGET AREA XVI</b> Art. 6, 2 (j), third part	Quality of waters used for aquaculture <del>or for the production or harvesting shellfish</del> <i>[Note: For Armenia as a land-locked country, only the first part may apply]</i>	Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate & Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Nature Protection/Water Resources Management Agency	Health issues & Water management issues

<b>Target area</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Main responsible governmental bodies</b>	<b>Armenian expert(s) for baseline analysis</b>
<b>TARGET AREA XVII</b> Art. 6, 2 (k)	Application of recognized good practice to the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing	Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	Health issues
<b>TARGET AREA XVIII</b> Art. 6, 2 (l)	Identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites	Ministry of Nature Protection (Water Resources Management Agency, State Environmental Inspectorate, Water Basin Management Authorities) & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate & Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	Water management issues & Health issues & Identification/remediation issues from a NGO perspective
<b>TARGET AREA XIX</b> Art. 6, 2 (m)	Effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources	Ministry of Nature Protection (Water Resources Management Agency, State Environmental Inspectorate, Water Basin Management Authorities)	Water management issues  (This includes the performance under extreme events)
<b>TARGET AREA XX</b> Art. 6, 2 (n)	Frequency of publication of information on the quality of drinking water supplied and of other waters relevant to the Protocol	Ministry of Nature Protection (Water Resources Management Agency, State Environmental Inspectorate, Water Basin Management Authorities) & Ministry of Health/State Hygiene Inspectorate	<i>[At intervals to be proposed by the Steering Committee]</i>

## Annex III

### Time schedule for project implementation

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Contracts			Target setting											Publication			
<b>Contractual arrangements</b>																		
Conclusion of contracts (consultants; logistics)	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Preliminary meeting schedule</b>																		
Meetings of UNECE with Armenian high-level representatives	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-
Meetings of expert group	-	-	-	x	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-
Meetings of NGOs involved in the target setting process	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-
Meetings of Steering Committee	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-
<b>Framework for setting targets and target dates (see tasks in figure 1)</b>																		
<b>Task A:</b> Identification of key stakeholders and setting up Steering Committee and Working Group	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Task I:</b> Establishing and implementing a transparent and fair framework for public participation	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-
<b>Tasks A and I:</b> Presentation of the Protocol to the key players in Armenia	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Task B:</b> Baseline analysis	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Contracts			Target setting												Publication		
<b>Task B:</b> Exploration of strategies and visions of key-player	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Task C:</b> Gap analysis and prioritization of activities	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Task D:</b> Draft targets and target dates as well as indicators	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
<b>Task D:</b> Agreement on a draft programme of measures supported by the main stakeholders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
<b>Task E:</b> Broad consultations with stakeholders on proposed targets and the programme of measures	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
<b>Task F:</b> Development of relevant tools for implementation (e.g. draft Ministerial Document)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
<b>Task F:</b> Final agreement on targets, their publication (e.g. as Ministerial Document) and communication to all stakeholders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
<b>Task G:</b> Implementation of the programme of measures	Task G falls under the entire responsibility of the Government and is not part of the project																	

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Contracts			Target setting												Publication		
<b>Tasks H and J:</b> Review and assessment of progress and reporting as well as revision of targets	Tasks H and J fall under the entire responsibility of the Government and are not part of the project																	
<b>Publications and public relations work</b>																		
<b>Tasks F and I:</b> Publications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
<b>Tasks F and I:</b> Public relations work (e.g. prior/after SC meetings)	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-