



European Union

# Water and Beyond

## EU transformative approaches for international partnerships



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



European  
Commission



UNECE



WOMEN  
FOR WATER  
PARTNERSHIP



## **Water as an equalizer: realizing impact for human development**

**Water – a key factor for public health and environment  
the Republic of Moldova**

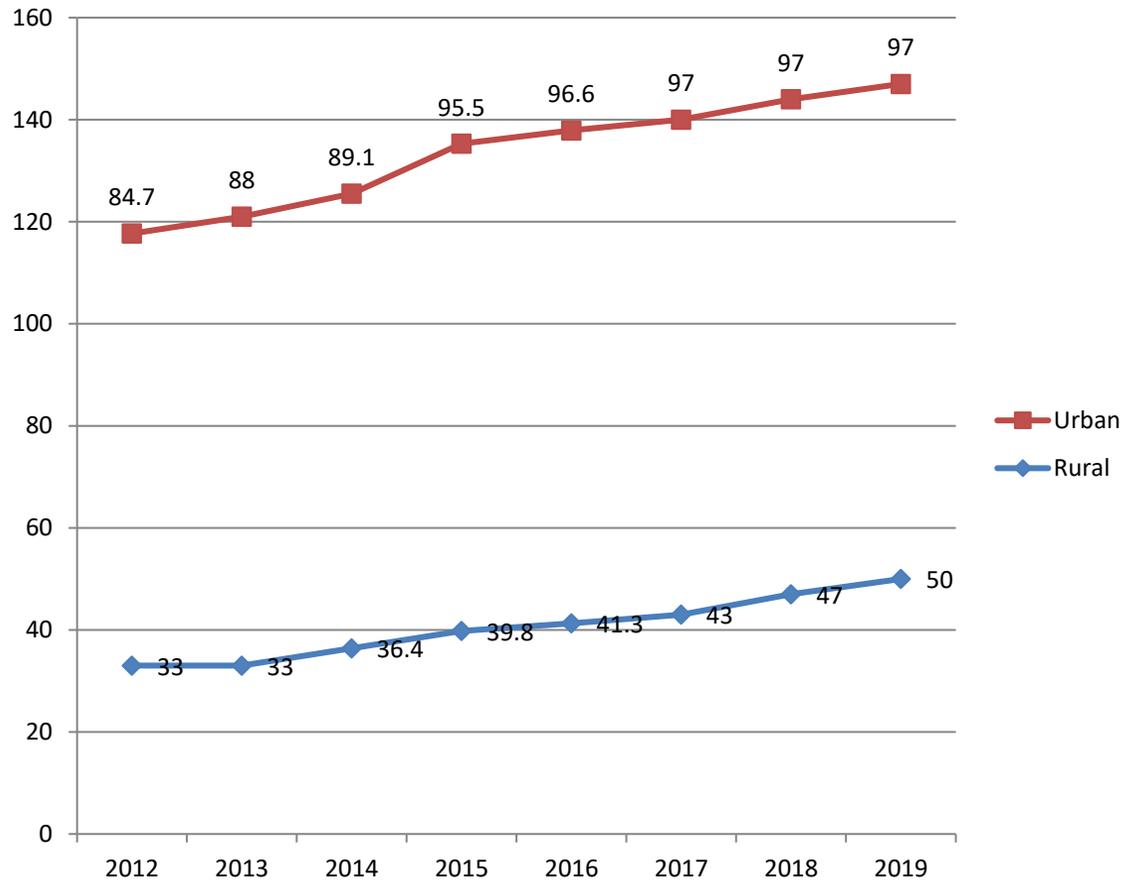
**Ion SALARU, National Agency for Public Health**



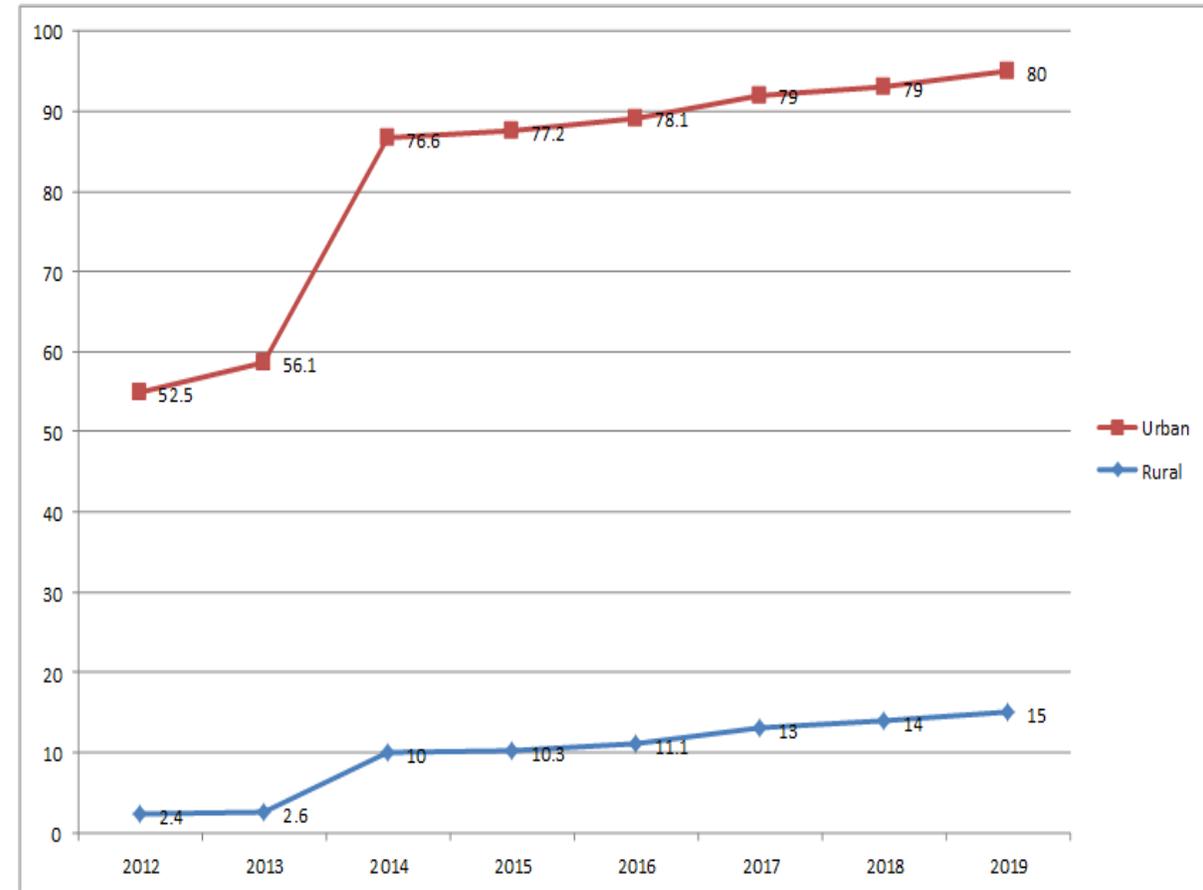
## MDA WASH country profile

- According to the National Bureau of Statistics of Republic of Moldova, water supply systems are operating in 1235 settlements (86% of all locations have water supply systems).
- 75% of locations (35% of general population) are supplied by Small scale WSS,
- Centralized sanitation systems are functioning in almost 800 locations, but only 206 are operating waste water treatment plants, as a result a significant number of locations face serious problems with waste water collection and treatment.
- Water Supply and Sanitation is considered one of the most priority area for health, environment, sustainable development

## Access to safely managed water supply and sanitation



**94% of schools and 90% of kindergartens connected to public water supply system**



**93% of schools and 89% of kindergartens connected to sanitation system**



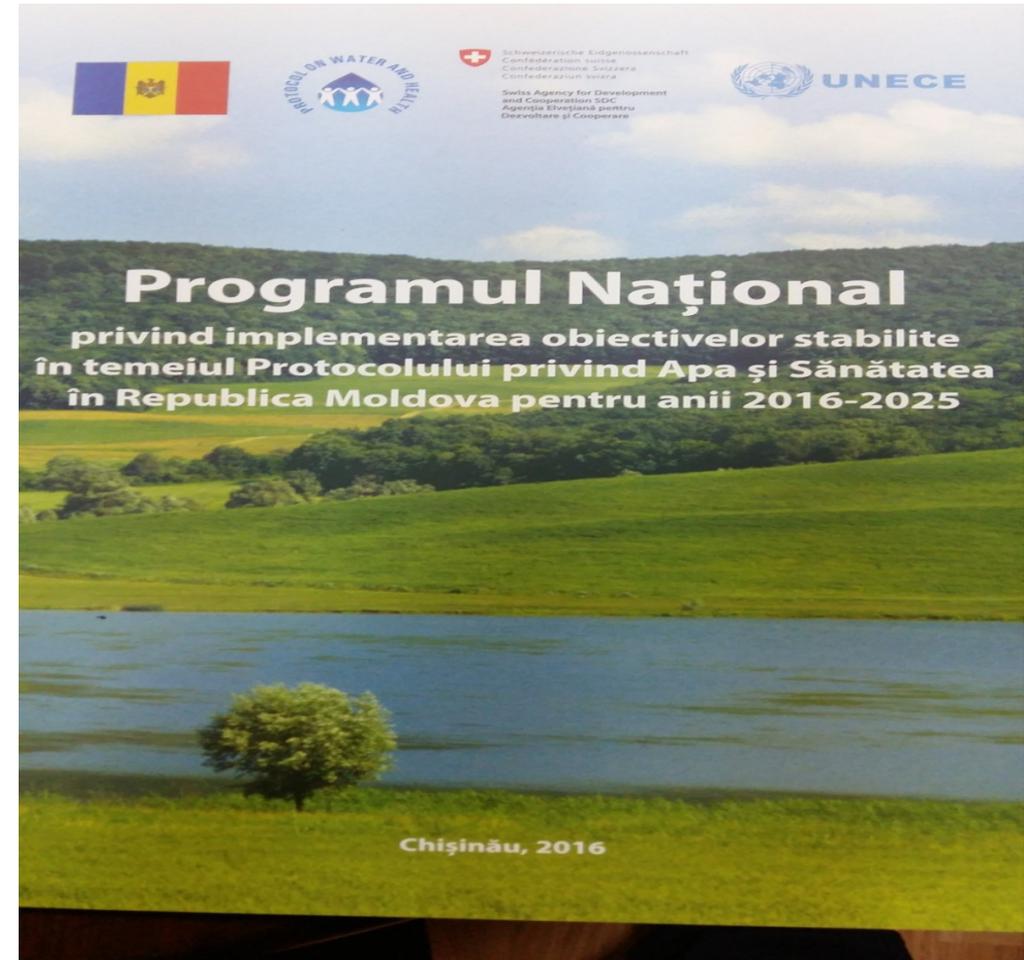
## Legal Framework

- Law 182/2019 on DWQ – transposed EU Directive 98/83/EC,
- Law 303/2013 on public water supply and sanitation systems,
- National Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation for 2014-2030 years, adopted by GD 199/2014, revised in 2020
- Sanitary Regulation for small scale water supply systems – GD #1466 of 30.12.2016
- National Guidance on development of Water Safety Plans, adopted in 2017,
- National Regulation on Surface water quality,
- National regulation on protection zones for drinking water sources.



## Role of the Protocol on Water and Health

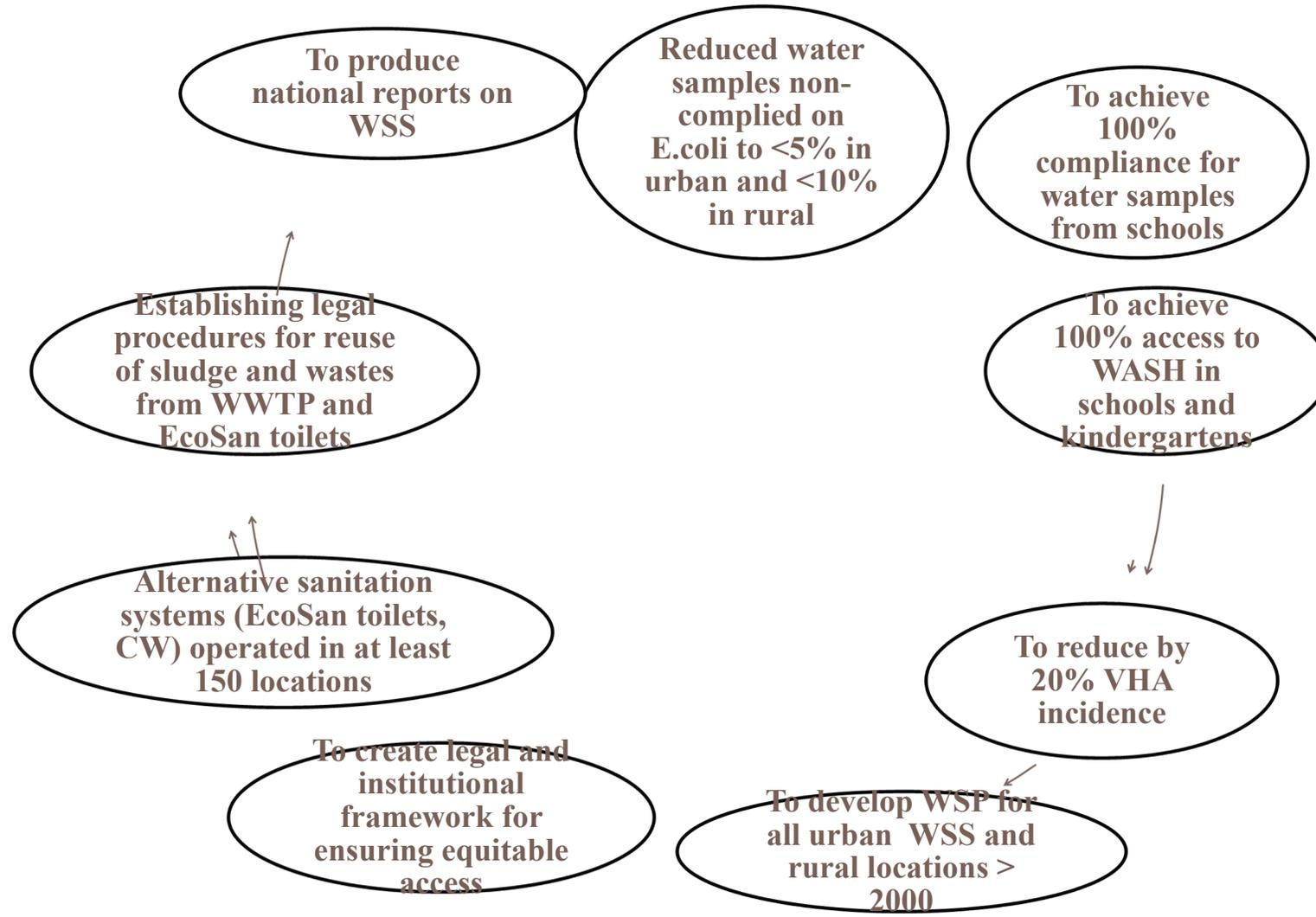
Protocol on Water and Health is seen as main instrument for offering access to safely managed water supply and sanitation and reducing water related disease, since Republic of Moldova became a Party in 2005. Moldova set revised national targets and target dates for the implementation of the Protocol in the first National Program for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016-2025 years, adopted by the Gov. Decision #1063/2016





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## Important National Targets for 2025





## **Actions to improve WASH**

- ❑ **Implementation of water supply and sanitation projects in 300 schools and kindergartens,**
- ❑ **Construction of an WTP from Prut River and modernization of 3 WTP in use with support of EU countries for improving DWQ**
- ❑ **Regionalization of WSS from surface waters for improving drinking water quality;**
- ❑ **Development and implementation of model WSP by small operators;**
- ❑ **Implementation of new projects for WSS in schools and kindergartens for ensuring 100% access;**
- ❑ **Strengthening of local associations of water users for improving services in rural areas;**
- ❑ **Change of attitude** - from 2018 Local administration provide budget line for soap and toilet paper in schools and kindergartens



- COVID pandemic hit very hard national economy, but stressed the fact, water, sanitation and hygiene are in the center of disease prevention, also once again showed big gap between rural and urban areas
- Before the beginning of new school year on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 (in Moldova all schools and kindergartens are working as usual, with physical presence) were doubled handwashing and disinfection stationeries.
- Teachers and students were trained on prevention COVID measures,
- Developed informative materials related to COVID and drinking water, bathing waters, swimming pools,
- Organized on-line trainings for school managers, using resources of the Clearing House for the Protocol on Water and Health, established at the National Public Health Agency



## Revision of National Program

- Under the project EUWI+ with kind EU support, in 2019 initiated revision of the National Program on Protocol implementation,
- As a result by an national expert group in August 2020 developed first draft. Main outcomes:
  - Situational analysis on program implementation,
  - Concept note on right to water and sanitation,
  - Extended period for implementation till 2030 to cover SDG indicators,
  - Revised and extended national targets and action plan to achieve those targets,
  - More focus on WASH issues-set national targets for WASH in HCF, planned to carry after the pandemic a general Survey on WASH in HCF,
- Draft Program was published in November 2020 for Public debates, in coming months will be send to the Government for approval, after establishing a new Government



## Conclusions and next steps

- Under NPD coordination mechanism with the project EUWI+ achieved good collaboration between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment,
- In last 10 years national authorities acted properly, which significantly improved situation, but still a lot to do.
- Many institutions, especially in rural areas do not offer safe conditions for sanitation and hygiene, which increase risk of infectious disease and non-communicable diseases
- Necessary to implement alternative sanitation solutions - in many rural areas sewerage is simply not feasible due to lack of reliable water supply or because investment and operation costs are not affordable.
- We will start as soon as possible the process of amendment of the law on drinking water quality, in line with new [Directive 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption](#), which entered into force on 12 January 2021.
- While mainly relevant to the EU Member States, it is also an important development for the entire Protocol community. Indeed, the Protocol on Water and Health has been specifically referenced in para 34 of the recitals as a mechanism that countries could use to “assess the policy background and the baseline situation on access to water and to define the actions necessary to improve equitable access for all to water intended for human consumption”. This aligns with article 16 of the Directive which calls on Member States to take the “necessary measures to improve or maintain access to water intended for human consumption for all, in particular for vulnerable and marginalized groups”.

**Thank you very much!**

