The Public Health Agenda on Water and Sanitation Services

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Outline

- Death caused by inadequate water and sanitation in the EMR
- Why water and sanitation for health?
- Concerns over water and sanitation within EMR
- The role of national public health authorities in water and sanitation
- WHO support to national health and water authorities in water and sanitation
- Your feedback on WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water Quality
World Health Organization
Eastern-Mediterranean Region

- 22 Member States
- 583 million people
Safe water, sanitation and hygiene are essential for preventing disease and death.

66 Thousand annual deaths due to lack of drinking water and sanitation

70 million without drinking water

180 million without sanitation

 Millions of people lacking access to water and sanitation
Why are domestic water availability and safety essential to health?

- Safe water in sufficient amounts is needed for:
  - Drinking; Food preparation; Personal hygiene; Cleanness & Sanitation
- Insufficient water supplies means inability to remove disease causing pathogens
- Unsafe water carries disease causing pathogens and chemicals
Why is sanitation and wastewater management important to health?

- Household sanitation removes pathogens from the house environment.
- Community wastewater systems remove pathogens from the community environment.
- Wastewater management is critical to pollution control and safe integration of wastewater into the environment as a useable water source.

Break the cycle of disease.
Climate change and fresh water decline are bad news for health
Water and public health

Insufficient & interrupted domestic water supplies

Water quality degradation & Compromised drinking water safety

Delayed extension of water services to the un-served

Desalination for water supply – new challenges

Wastewater used in irrigation of food crops

Reduced food production

Food insecurity

Malnutrition

Water & sanitation related disease

Climate Change

Water Scarcity

Funding Base

Regulatory & institutional capacities

World Health Organization

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Water resource governance for health

- Secure domestic water requirements for health while allocating water resources to competing demands
- National policies on water requirements for health agreed and implemented
- WHO provides a guidance protocol for development of national policies on health and water requirements
WHO publishes guidelines on drinking water, safe wastewater use and recreational water.

WHO recommend preventative water safety management framework **WATER SAFETY PLANS**

WHO provides manuals, training material and technical assistance on Water Safety Plans

WSPs implemented by water companies in more than 50 countries including EMR countries

WSPs promoted by policy or required by law in more than 20 countries
The Public Health Role in Governance Regulation and Oversight of Water and Sanitation Services

Management Framework for Water and Sanitation Sector

- Governance & Regulations, health-based norms, service targets, financing
- Service Delivery and Management
- Oversight Surveillance & Evaluation

Public health context and health outcomes
System performance

Responsibilities
- National Regulatory bodies including public health
- Water & Sanitation agencies
- Public Health

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WHO global, regional and country work on water and sanitation

- Providing evidence-based normative guidelines and policy options for:
  - Managing drinking water safety
  - Managing use of wastewater
  - Managing recreational waters

- Providing technical support to countries especially the public health agencies:
  - Strengthening the governance and regulatory framework for the sector
  - Developing national water and sanitation policies and programmes
  - Strengthening the surveillance and monitoring of water and sanitation sector and services

- Monitoring water and sanitation globally and in all countries
Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) of WHO/UNICEF generates the official UN data on the MDGs and post 2015 targets
- Biennial progress reports and annual updates on access to water and sanitation globally and in each Member State

WHO Global Assessment and Analysis and Assessment of the Sector (GLAAS)
- supports monitoring at country level for improved governance, planning and management of the sector
WHO is in the process of revising the Guidelines on DWQ. 5th edition by 2019

WHO invites feedback from users to inform the ongoing revision process:
- Feedback on utilization of WHO guidelines
- Feedback on clarity and sufficiency of the guidelines recommendations
- Feedback on additional guidance that you may need

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