


# **Regional priority goal I**

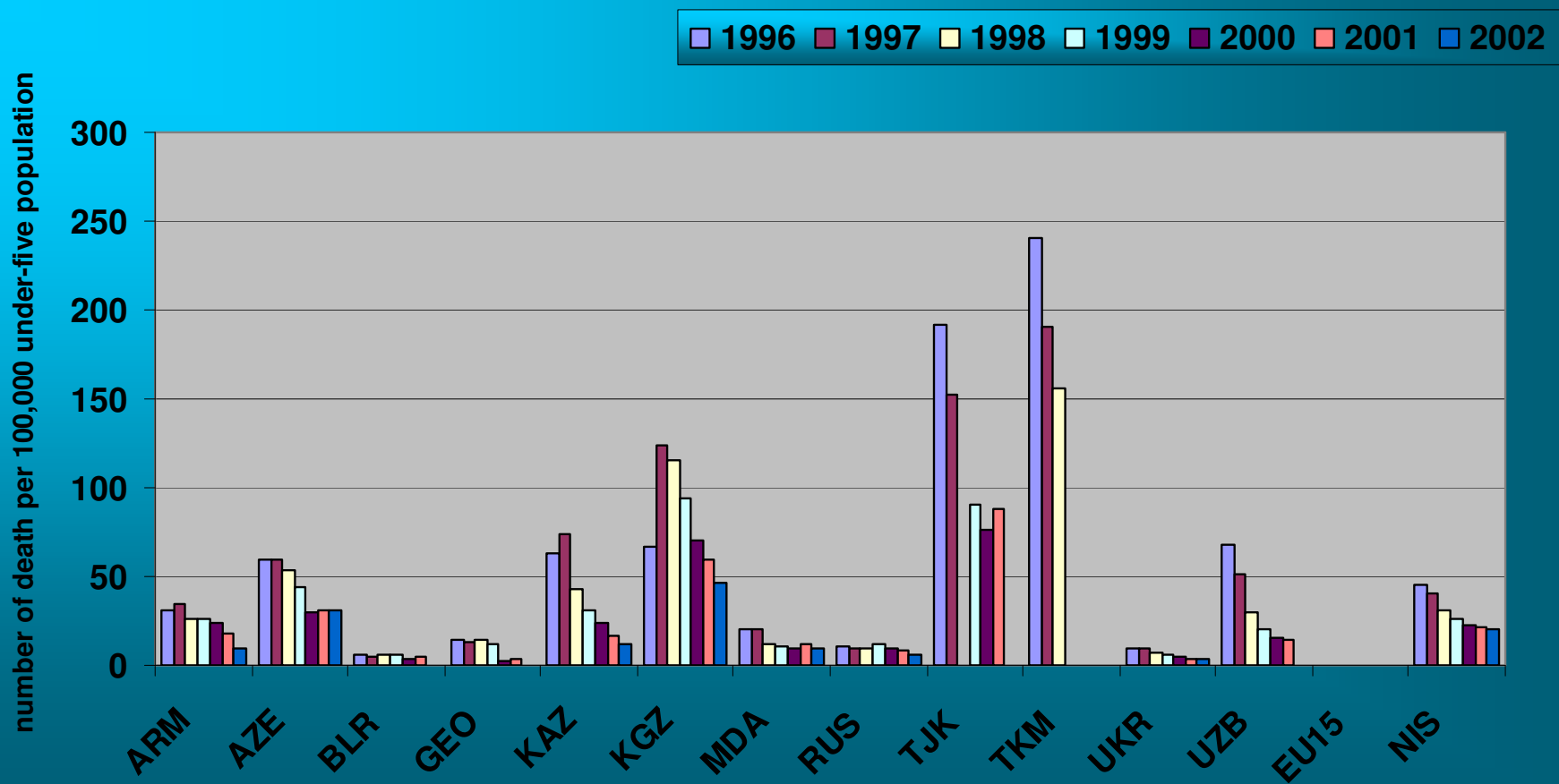
**Reducing gastrointestinal disorders and other water related diseases with safe water and sanitation**



# Problem: too many children die

- Children are still dying of diarrhoea and blue baby syndrome in Europe
- Countries are not taking sufficient actions to provide improved water and sanitation for the most needy: children in rural areas
- Children of poor minority groups or refugees suffer the most

# Under-five Mortality Rate of Diarrhoeal Diseases



**Problem: many more kids in Eastern part of the continent get ill while in kindergartens and schools**



*School pit latrine for 350 children*

## Problem: Less people have access to safe water in rural areas

Access to sustainable water supply in rural areas of Kyrgyz Republic



# Advances Since Budapest

- In 2003, the NGO Brussels Statement called on governments to finally ratify the Water & Health Protocol
  - Good news: the protocol is in force and has an excellent workplan, concrete steps, tasks divided
  - Bad news: many countries still have to ratify it and there is a lack of funding for the workplan

**Before**



**After**



# Recommendation: focus on safe school sanitation

- Safe school sanitation should be a priority
- especially schools in rural areas need safe toilets
- with hand-washing facilities
- and access to safe drinking water (do not close well and give no alternative)
- Schools with unsafe sanitation or no safe water supply should not be allowed to function

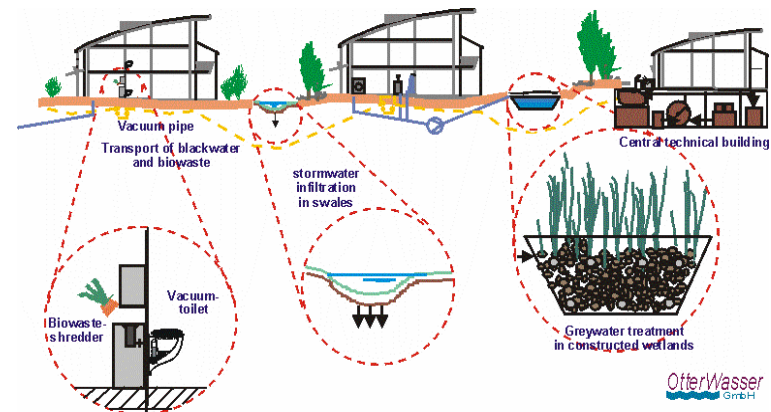
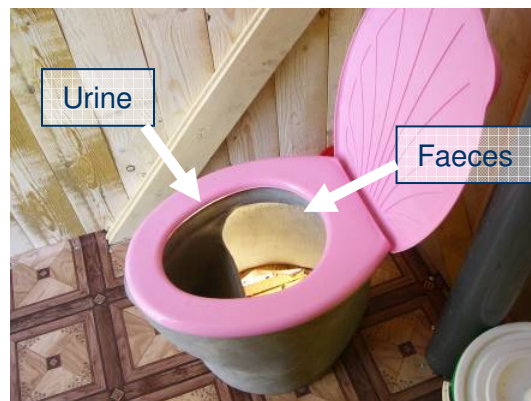


# Funding priority: school sanitation

- **Ministries of Health and Environment need to put safe school sanitation on the top of their government agenda (local governments, Ministries of Education and Public Works)**
- **EU structural funds and developing funds should be targeted at school sanitation in rural communities without safe water supply and sanitation**

# Funding priority: affordable for small communities

- Small size water supply systems
- On-site ecological sanitation systems like wetlands and dry urine diverting toilets
- Local employment: production of toilet seats and construction of toilet buildings



# NGO Commitments Rome 2009

- Improve health of 10.000 school children
- Provide 25 schools with low cost, locally produced dry urine diverting toilets
- Protect groundwater from infiltration of faecal bacteria and nitrates
- Demonstrate benefits of reuse of wastewater and nutrients in agriculture
- Same cost as a VIP pit latrine

# Provide legislative framework

- **Transpose into national legislation the WHO Guideline for safe re-use of human excreta and grey water in agriculture**
- **Water source protection legislation**
  - **Enforcement of regulations on containment of pesticides, latrines, animal waste, solid waste**

# Support for citizen's initiatives



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- **Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) – ECO Forum**
- **Austrian Doctors for the Environment (ISDE Austria)**
- **Earth Forever Foundation, Bulgaria**
- **Danube Teens, Romania**
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