

# DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE WASH SYSTEMS IN TAJIKISTAN

## WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION



OXFAM



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## THE PROBLEM

Tajikistan is a small mountainous country that is rich in hydrological resources thanks to its many glaciers, which provide the hydropower for over 90% of its electricity. Yet, despite this abundance of freshwater, access to drinking water and sanitation services is the lowest in the region.

In Tajikistan, access to improved water sources is limited; less than half the population of over 9 million people has access to safe drinking water.

Most systems built during the Soviet era are severely dilapidated. Partly due to civil war, little has been invested in infrastructure and social services for decades.

To help address this, between 2009 and 2022 Tajikistan's WASH Programme built **15 WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS FOR 26 VILLAGES AND A TOWN, SERVING 56,028 PEOPLE:**

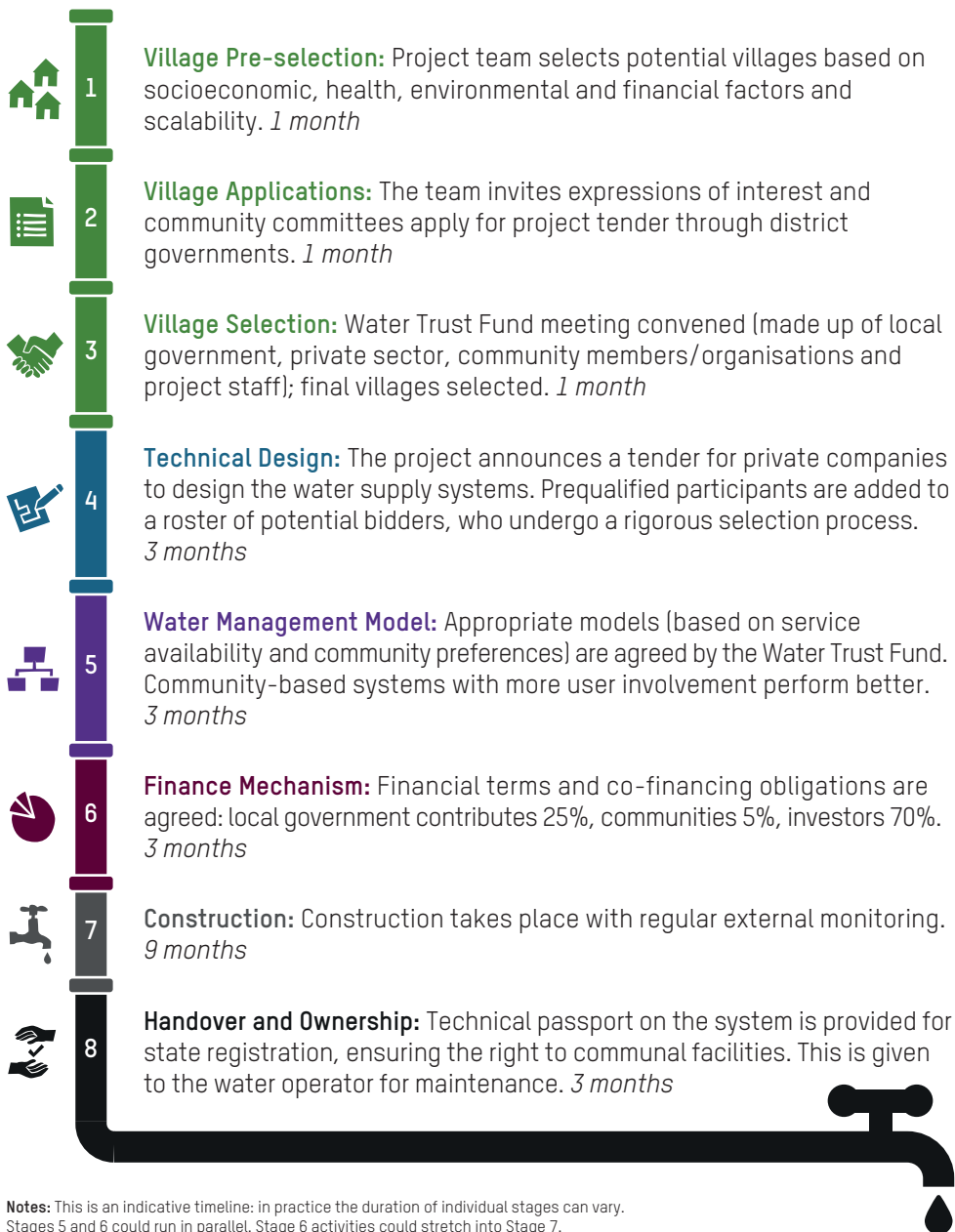


This brochure explains, in brief, how we did this and what we learned.

This work is part of the Tajikistan Water Supply and Sanitation (TajWSS) project. This aims to improve the health status of the population by delivering long-lasting WASH services, while addressing market systems and strengthening institutions.

# WHAT WE DID | Water supply system construction

The project constructed 15 water supply systems across three districts over 11 years. The process comprised 8 key stages and took around 2 years.



**Notes:** This is an indicative timeline: in practice the duration of individual stages can vary. Stages 5 and 6 could run in parallel. Stage 6 activities could stretch into Stage 7.



## WHAT WE LEARNED

- 1 Stakeholders appreciated using a participatory approach for the village selection process.
- 2 Specialists are crucial for monitoring construction quality and detecting defects.
- 3 Local government staff cooperation was vital for project success.
- 4 Water users associations' commitment and enthusiasm were key to smooth implementation.
- 5 Disaster risk reduction mitigation measures are vital.
- 6 Contractors and operators were resistant to change. Involving the project's engineers was the only guarantee of quality of work.
- 7 The local administration's contribution was difficult to secure and often delayed.
- 8 Communities must be engaged in construction to guarantee interest in the system's functionality and knowledge transfer.
- 9 New water systems risk failure unless initial funds, spare parts and trained water operators are in place.