

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



EQUIDEV



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Building on the foundations laid last year, 2023 has been a year of transformative achievements for Equidev, and it remains my great honor and privilege to lead this incredible organization as we strive to expand our impact across Tajikistan and beyond.

I am thrilled to announce the successful completion of a number of projects – including two new Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS), two lavatory facilities, and the first year of a new project funded by the Government of Switzerland – all of which have attracted further attention from prospective donors and appreciation from noteworthy actors within the development space. In particular, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan has publicly praised Equidev's successes, efforts, and contributions towards improving sanitation services, with regular mentions at high-level conferences, workshops, and meetings. Such public appreciation has been vital for our visibility in the sector, and I am delighted that our hard work and impact continues to be recognized.

Our efforts to expand our reach have paid off this past year, with exciting new partnerships on the horizon. We recently signed an important cooperation agreement with UNICEF for the implementation of a new Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) approach (the "Three Stars Approach") for schools across Tajikistan, and we won a grant for family poultry production as part of the USAID-funded Feed the Future Tajikistan Agriculture and Land Governance Activity. Such partnerships are crucial to our growth as an organization and will be invaluable in increasing the impact of our activities moving forwards.

Although still in its infancy, I am immensely proud of Equidev's journey so far. I have always believed that significant long-lasting change stems from collective action and an unwavering shared commitment to ensuring development work stands the test of time. I am therefore truly encouraged by the partnerships we have formed over the past two years, the high-impact projects we have already implemented, and the concrete actions we continue to take in building a better future for Tajikistan – none of which would be possible without our dedicated staff, our endlessly supportive partners, and our generous donors. I thank you all!

With great thanks and hope for the future,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gulchehra Boboeva'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gulchehra Boboeva
Equidev CEO, Tajikistan



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Esteemed Stakeholders and Supporters of Equidev,

I am thrilled to share with you Equidev's Annual Report for the transformative year of 2023. It fills me with great pride to reflect on the remarkable achievements and milestones we've accomplished together in our ongoing mission to advance equitable growth and development in Tajikistan.

Over the past year, Equidev has expanded its reach across Tajikistan, extending vital development programs to both the northern and southern regions of the country. Our unwavering focus on ensuring equitable access to WASH has been at the forefront of our efforts. We've prioritized reaching marginalized communities, particularly women and children in remote areas, with comprehensive initiatives spanning effective governance, capacity building, infrastructure development, and policy advocacy within the WASH sector.

I am delighted to report that through these initiatives, Equidev has touched the lives of over 295,000 beneficiaries, providing essential healthcare services to 190,000 outpatients, 11,400 inpatients, and empowering over 700 health workers and staff. These efforts have led to tangible improvements in health and sanitation conditions, benefiting communities, schools, and hospitals alike.

Our successes have been made possible through invaluable partnerships with esteemed donors such as SDC, UNICEF, and the German Embassy. Additionally, promising collaborations with institutions like New York City University and DAI USAID have further amplified our impact. Notably, our reputation and expertise have attracted interest from renowned organizations like the Aga Khan Foundation and USAID, paving the way for potential collaborations in critical areas of WASH and Agriculture. Strategic partnerships with government agencies, Tajik Technical University, Tajik Agrarian University, and local authorities have strengthened our impact and reach across various sectors. In particular, the construction and handover of two new DEWATS in Aini and Sarvoda Hospitals stand as testament to Equidev's commitment to enhancing healthcare infrastructure and sanitation services for the community. Moreover, our commitment to sustainable development has been reinforced through the initiation of two new projects with BORDA in Aini and Sarvoda. These projects underscore our dedication to creating lasting positive change within the communities we serve. As we move forward, our dedication remains unwavering. In December 2023, we embarked on a new UNICEF WASH project targeting 14 districts of Khatlon and DRS, as well as 50 schools, aiming to benefit 25,000 children, teachers, and communities. This initiative reaffirms our commitment to improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities for all.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, donors, and the communities we serve. It is through your unwavering support and collaboration that we have been able to make meaningful strides towards sustainable development and improving the lives of the people of Tajikistan. Together, we stand poised to continue our journey toward a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Seyed Faiz

Chair of the Board of Directors, Equidev

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1

INTRODUCTION



WHO WE ARE

Equidev is an international public organization providing expert development solutions and technical support to advance sustainable development and equitable growth in Central Asia.

We are a new, independent organization, originally founded by Oxfam Great Britain (Oxfam GB) —a leading global charity fighting inequality, poverty and injustice. Equidev partners with bilateral and multilateral agencies, governments, not-for-profit organizations, social enterprises and the private sector. It is registered as a non-profit international organization under Tajik legislation.

Headquartered in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Equidev offers a range of consulting, advisory and implementation support services across diverse socioeconomic development sectors and practices. Driven by our core values—equity and justice for all, with an unwavering commitment to positive impacts—and powered by cutting-edge innovation, we offer integrated solutions for complex development problems that confront developing economies in the region. Equidev is expertly mentored by Oxfam GB, which will continue to support Equidev in setting up its robust strategic and operational base in the region through investments in capacity, network and assets over the coming years.

OUR SERVICES



Public Health



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Agriculture, Nutrition and Economic Justice



Climate Change & Risk Reduction



Cross Cutting



Green Growth



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2001

Oxfam GB launched its operations in Tajikistan in 2001 and developed its leadership reputation in the country by designing and implementing programs across multiple sectors, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), climate resilient agriculture, enterprise development, health and nutrition, and gender justice.

2018

In 2018, as part of its global review, a strategic decision was taken for Oxfam GB to phase out of Tajikistan, but with a clear objective and long-term vision to carry forward its legacy, values and expertise. To this end, it established a new public organization named “Equitable Development”, thereafter known as “Equidev”.

2019

Equidev’s official registration was launched in 2019 with the support of legal advisors.

2021

On 3rd February 2021, Equidev was formally registered as a non-profit international organization in Tajikistan, with a mandate to extend its operations into the neighboring countries of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

>> Our mission and vision

We proudly enshrine the core values of our founding organization Oxfam GB to end the injustice of poverty. To infuse our work culture with this mission, we are uncompromising in our values, relentless in our search for innovation and totally focused on impact.

Our vision for the development of the region is to foster holistic and inclusive development solutions on a scale that eliminates inequities, marginalization, hunger and poverty.

We strongly believe in integrated and people-centric ecosystem that synergises the strengths of various partners.

The primary driver of transformational change is an enabling environment that integrates four elements: the capacities of the communities, the efficiency of the market, the reach and vision of the facilitators and the power of the state. To this end, we strive to design models and approaches, test them, nurture partnerships to reach scale and engage with policy to create enabling space.

>> Our values

We are enablers of change, and believe in catalyzing transformation by creating bridges, brokering partnerships and establishing collaborations between government, aid agencies and local partners.

Our unique strength is our cross-sectoral approach to development problems: we harness our expertise in WASH, climate resilient agriculture, enterprise development, health and nutrition, and gender justice. We are restless innovators with a flair for challenging existing development paradigms, policy and practices in our quest for better solutions. To achieve our goal, we make extensive use of evidence, measurement, impact and data. Our in-depth understanding of realities on the ground, born of decades of community development experience, has endowed our diverse solutions with a unique sense of local relevance.

We believe in long-term partnerships where we work hand in hand with our partners, learning together and using multiple engagement models to deliver an enduring value proposition.

We use our extensive regional and global network, reinforced by a deep and diverse expertise base in different business areas, specialities and geographic locations, to bring superior technical expertise, robust project management and unmatched quality to all our work.

Equidev's core team consists of staff members with extensive work experience within Oxfam GB. Drawing on the experience of our founding organization, we have a proven track record in designing, implementing and upscaling hundreds of programs, humanitarian assistance projects and campaigns in the region. Our widely reputed models in WASH, climate resilient agriculture, enterprise development, health and nutrition, and gender justice serve as benchmarks of excellence in these sectors.

We do not rest on our reputation and continually seek to develop path-breaking strategies and improve the effectiveness of practices, tools and outcomes, while keeping client requirements front and centre.



OUR STRATEGY

In March 2021, a five-year strategy was prepared by Equidev's senior management and presented to the Equidev Board for approval, along with a proposed governance structure and financial projections. The new governance structure – consisting of a local Board of Founding Members and an International Advisory Board – was duly approved.

The International Advisory Board supports the mission and the objectives of the organization, and provides technical assistance and strategic decision-making support to the local Board and Equidev's management team.

The strategy document captures Equidev's extension plan into Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. However, due to the unstable security situation in the region and as advised by the Board, all extension plans have since been put on hold. Equidev's management team will continue to monitor the security situation and will take appropriate actions moving forwards.



[Read our capability statement >>](#)



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OUR EXPERTISE



STRENGTHS AND COMPETENCIES

Equidev has swiftly become a well-recognized national organization, thanks to a strong relationship with Tajikistan's Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the continued dedicated support of Oxfam GB's technical consultants. Equidev's greatest strength as an organization is our ability to work at both national and community level, including:



At national level:

- Members of Donor Coordination Council (DCC) meetings, WASH, Maternal Child and Health (MCH) and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) networks at both regional and national levels.
- Knowledge and understanding of government priorities and strategy for both WASH and health and nutrition sectors.
- Vast experience of policy influencing and advocacy work for both WASH and health and nutrition sectors.
- Extensive experience of developing training tools and IEC materials, including a full package of WASH training materials and WASH/COVID-19 prevention tools (approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection).
- Excellent long-standing relationship with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Committee of Environmental Protection, and the Healthy Lifestyle Center – at all levels - and with the State Unitary Enterprise “Khojagii Manziliyu-Kommunali” (KMK).
- Can provide a range of high-quality technical trainings for primary healthcare staff, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Family Medicine, Reproductive Health Institutions and the Republican Healthy Lifestyle Center.



At community level:

- Strong in community mobilization, the organization of outreach campaigns, and conducting BCC sessions through multiple channels.
- Extensive experience and aptitude for building close links between primary healthcare staff and community members.
- Experience in establishing emergency transportation funds for the hospital referral of pregnant women in remote areas.
- Can apply innovative approaches (such as through mobile technology or child-to-child educational tools) to conduct instructive trainings at community level and disseminate key health and nutrition messages.
- Experience in promoting effective water governance models and improving the financial and managerial capacity of water operators to respond to users' needs. Equidev has the technical resources to establish Water Users Committees and train staff on the technical operation of systems, financial management, use of feedback mechanisms and social accountability, and networking/coordination with government actors.
- Can promote market oriented projects, particularly those related to sanitation, and adapt the DEWATS model to smaller scale, if needed.
- Skills and experience in both organizing and supporting national campaigns (such as Breastfeeding Week or Global Handwashing Day) by involving famous actors to help deliver key messages.
- Experience of forming and supporting women groups in agribusiness.



FOCUS AREAS

As an organization, Equidev's overarching mission is to provide integrated solutions to the complex development problems faced by the Central Asian region. In so doing, it has developed particular expertise in the following four core areas:



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Equipped with Oxfam GB's legacy of over 20 years of experience in managing large and complex WASH projects in the region, Equidev is well positioned to provide reliable and sustainable solutions that are relevant and acceptable to users.

Equidev ensures that services are extended to both urban and rural remote areas, while tailoring technical solutions to the specific needs of communities, fostering sustainability, and enhancing the quality of governance across the WASH sector.

We work with all stakeholders on policy, influencing and advocacy on water sector reform, improvements of WASH facilities across both rural and urban areas, social accountability, local governance and water governance, hygiene promotion and BCC activities, and gender mainstreaming.



PUBLIC HEALTH

Equidev will provide an innovative and comprehensive framework to support the Tajikistan Ministry of Health and Social Protection to improve the country's health status and nutrition, particularly for women and children living in rural areas.

This includes:

- ✓ Integrating healthcare at the family, community, clinical, and national levels relating to good maternal, newborn, and child health, with an emphasis on nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene.
- ✓ Collaborating with other development partners to promote and improve healthy behaviors and practices, strengthen links among health facilities and communities, incorporate gender-equitable and culturally sensitive approaches, and leverage stakeholder partnerships.
- ✓ Conducting innovative trainings for mothers and their family members on healthy nutrition behavior, with a focus on locally available foods.
- ✓ Conducting trainings on the prevention of infectious diseases among public health staff and community members.
- ✓ Conducting trainings for community members on COVID-19 preventions and response.



AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Equidev inherited some strong professional experience in working on Economic Justice (EJ) and wishes to continue doing so, particularly through building the income and productivity of Smallholder Farmers (SHF) – especially women farmers – by enhancing their resilience to climate change, connecting them to equitable market systems and supporting linkages to the private sector. Over the past year, Equidev's EJ program sought to strengthen farmers' institutions (such as producer groups and their associations), contributed to the development of critical farming infrastructures (especially market infrastructure), and facilitated linkages between government, private sector and farmers' institutions for enterprise promotion, ultimately leading to the economic empowerment of SHF. Working in close collaboration with the private sector, a solid foundation was established for developing agriculture enterprise clusters, from village to national level, which is expected to boost the market power of SHF.

The main aims of the EJ program were as follows:

- ✓ **From productivity to profitability:** Closely integrate farmers and their collectives with the markets to derive remunerative returns from farming.
- ✓ **From collectivization to value addition:** Leverage the private sector for value addition through enterprises led and managed by private sector entities, but owned by SHF associations.
- ✓ **From market linkage to market development:** Adopt a holistic perspective, driven by a market development approach, to help establish new mechanisms for sharing market information and build incentives for private sector players to support market access and address regulatory bottlenecks.
- ✓ **Private sector in agriculture – from enabler to leader:** To sustain and scale-up private sector investments, ensure that the current incremental approach gives way to a new value chain proposition, where the private sector takes the lead in harnessing the potential of farmers' collectives, builds closer cooperation with diverse actors to integrate the existing fragmented value chain, and defines standards and rules of market functioning.

3

OUR IMPACT



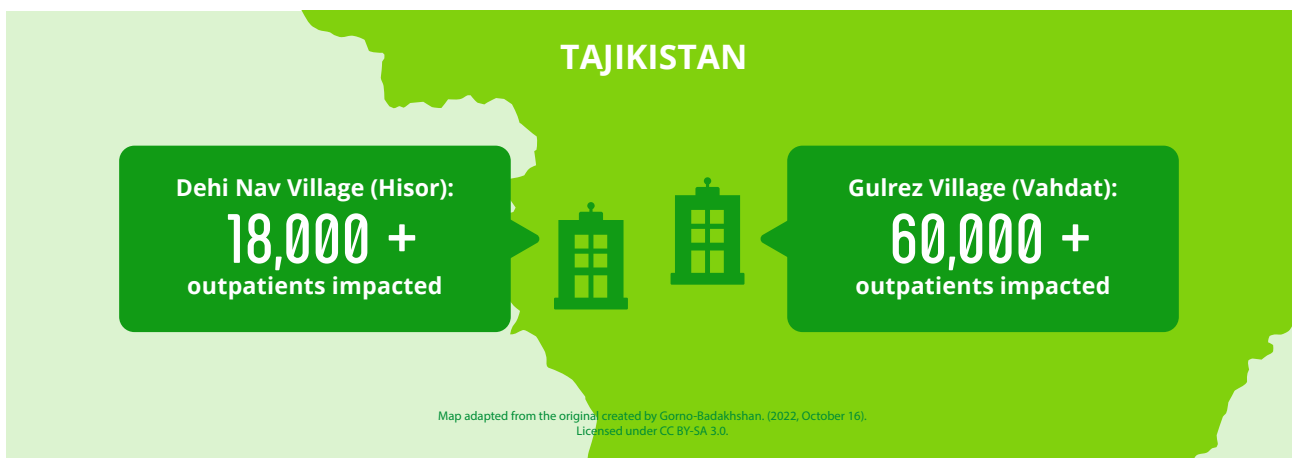
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS – 2023

1. WASH PROJECTS

Construction of two sanitation blocks

Over the course of five months, Equidev led on the construction of two new and upgraded toilet blocks for rural hospitals in the towns of Vahdat and Hisor, vastly improving the sanitation and hygiene conditions for patients, visitors, and hospital staff.

Each new toilet block comprises four units, divided into separate sections for men and women, and washbasins equipped with both hot and cold water. These units are connected to the Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System (DEWATS) – constructed by Equidev and the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA) in November 2022, with support from the Lions Club International (Switzerland-Liechtenstein) – thus ensuring proper treatment and disposal of wastewater, and contributing to a healthier environment for the local population.



This project was a successful collaboration between multiple stakeholders, including Equidev, BORDA, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoHSPRT), and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany as funders.



Construction of two more DEWATS

Further to the successful implementation of DEWATS in previous years, two DEWATS were constructed and inaugurated in the Ayni district. Funded by the Lions Club International (Switzerland-Liechtenstein), these additional DEWATS were built under the Clean Water Project Series – a collaborative initiative implemented by Equidev and BORDA, with support from the Ayni Hukumat and MoHSPRT.

The successfully constructed systems have a wastewater treatment capacity of 35,640 liters (in Ayni) and 13,700 liters (in Sarvoda) per day.

As a result, on an annual basis a cumulative total of **204,651 people directly benefit from more sanitary hygienic conditions in these two hospitals.**

With the finalization of these two projects, a total of four DEWATS have been realized under the Clean Water Project Series in Tajikistan – a significant contribution towards sustainable sanitation for all and a key step towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.

Ayni Central Hospital:

160,499

people impacted per year

Zarafshon Hospital in Sarvoda Town:

44,152

people impacted per year

During the inauguration ceremonies, health workers talked about the challenges they faced in relying on dilapidated infrastructure and poor wastewater management, resulting in wastewater pouring into rivers and causing the spread of diseases. They also shared their joy in now benefitting from such a modern wastewater treatment system and the necessary knowledge and tools for its operation and maintenance.

PRINCIPLES OF DEWATS TREATMENT

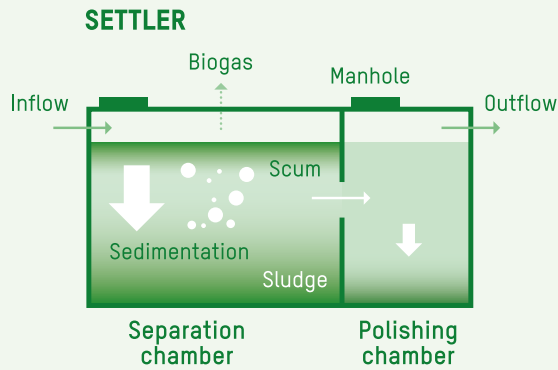
DEWATS is a technical approach to decentralized wastewater treatment in developing communities. It consists of a variety of approaches for collecting, treating and disposing of/ reusing wastewater close to where it is generated – be it for individual dwellings, clusters of homes, entire communities, institutional buildings, schools or hospitals.

It is based on the principles of decentralization, simplicity and reuse of the treatment products. Simplicity is achieved through on-site treatment without chemicals or electro-chemical equipment/ energy input, and by low maintenance requirements. Necessary maintenance activities can be carried out by service providers or by supervised and trained maintenance personnel on-site.

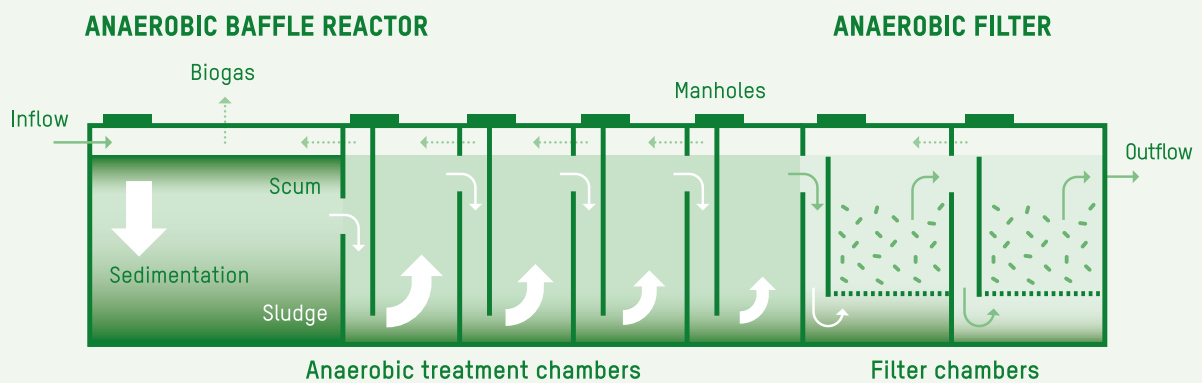
There are three main treatment steps and modules, which are combined and customized according to local conditions.



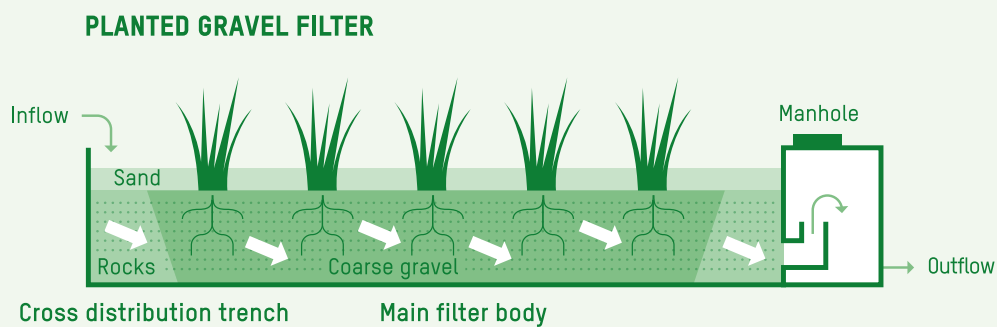
1 Primary treatment



2 Secondary treatment



3 Advanced secondary treatment options



Source: BORDA (2019) *

BORDA (2019). BORDA Laos: DEWATS Service Packages: An effective, efficient, affordable and proven wastewater treatment solution. Retrieved 22 April, 2022 from: https://borda-sea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/20160721_LBOR_DEWATSBrochure.pdf

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF DEWATS

- ✔ They can treat wastewater from domestic or industrial sources.
- ✔ They can be an integral part of comprehensive wastewater strategies and should be seen as complementing other centralized and decentralized wastewater treatment options.
- ✔ Units can be constructed from locally available materials and implemented by the local workforce.
- ✔ They usually function without electricity, but pumping is sometimes required for water lift.
- ✔ They can provide a renewable energy and wastewater reuse source: biogas supplies energy for cooking, lighting, or power generation; treated water can be reused for irrigation and gardening.
- ✔ They require few operations and maintenance (O&M) skills. Most operational tasks can be carried out by the users and some maintenance services might be provided by locally trained service providers. Hence they are reliable and cost efficient for O&M.



2. KEY AGREEMENTS SIGNED FOR 2024

Cooperation Agreement with UNICEF

In December 2023, Gulchehra Boboeva (Equidev CEO) signed a Cooperation Agreement with UNICEF for the implementation of the “Three Stars Approach” to WASH in the schools of Tajikistan.

This project will run from January to December 2024 and aims to improve the health of schoolchildren and citizens through access to sustainable WASH services and improved hygiene behaviors.

It is expected that by the end of the project:

- a) The Three Stars Approach will be introduced in 50 schools across 14 cities and districts in Tajikistan.
- b) School teachers will be equipped with skills, knowledge and motivation to sustain the Three Stars Approach.
- c) Effective O&M systems will be in place across 50 schools to sustain WASH infrastructure.



Series of signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

1

In February 2023, Equidev signed an MoU with the Faizobod Local Executive Body of State Authority to facilitate both financial and technical assistance for the construction of a new DEWATS for the main hospital in the Faizobod district. Under this MoU, Faizobod Local Executive Body of State Authority commits to contribute 10% of the total project costs.

2

In April 2023, Equidev signed an MoU with MoHSPRT to provide expert technical support for sustainable and equitable development in the Republic of Tajikistan and abroad, with emphasis on improving wastewater management and sanitation in hospitals.

3

In May 2023, Equidev signed an MoU with the Tajik Technical University (TTU) to provide technical support, contribute to the TTU curriculum, and help develop course materials. Key to this will be introducing DEWATS as a standalone course.

4

In November 2023, Equidev signed an MoU with the Tajik Agrarian University (TAU) to advance cooperation in the implementation of ongoing projects and programs. Both parties have agreed to work together in promoting DEWATS, knowledge exchange programs, and capacity building activities.



3. ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Workshop series on decentralized sanitation solutions



As part of “Building Knowledge and Awareness on Sustainable Sanitation Solutions”, a project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and led by Equidev, three one-day workshops were organized for relevant decision makers, planners and engineers.

The objective of this workshop series was to increase the knowledge and awareness levels of local and national stakeholders on the importance of proper wastewater management, to highlight existing challenges, and to present DEWATS as viable solutions. The workshop agenda included theoretical presentations, followed by group discussions and participatory exercises.

Organized and facilitated by Equidev (with support from Oxfam Consults), the workshops were presented by BORDA in the following locations:

Regional Level Workshop in Bokthar city, Kathlon Region:



33 participants

Regional Level Workshop in Guliston City, Sughd Region:



34 participants

National Level Workshop in Dushanbe:



44 participants

All workshops were successfully conducted, with a cumulative participation of 111 people from various different sectors and backgrounds (including representatives from local Hukumats, national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, sectoral WASH experts, doctors and hospital managers).

Main discussion points

Throughout the workshop series, the key questions and discussion points were of economic, social and technical nature – as follows:

- » **Costs:** DEWATS are typically designed at low cost as they can be constructed with locally available materials, and require low O&M.
- » **Land requirements:** While DEWATS can be compact, nature-based solutions typically have larger land area requirements. However, as the conditions and characteristics of individual cases can vary greatly, a “one size fits all” approach does not apply and generally requires a mosaic of technological solutions under centralized, decentralized or poly-centralized schemes.
- » **Awareness:** A lack of awareness around healthy hygiene behaviors and sanitation remains a significant challenge in Tajikistan and requires urgent attention.

Site visits for future engineers

In November 2023, a group of 11 students and 3 teachers from the Construction and Architecture Faculty of the TTU conducted a study tour of the DEWATS in Hisor town, gaining valuable insights and knowledge of engineering and wastewater management.

The students were provided with first-hand experience of how the system treats wastewater in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. They learned about the various components of the system, as well as the potential impact of DEWATS in addressing environmental and public health challenges.



DEWATS O&M

In May 2023, Equidev organized a one-day workshop in the Central District Hospital of Ayni district – in coordination with the local authorities – focused on the O&M of DEWATS. The training was aimed at technical staff to enrich their knowledge and skills and ensure regular operation and sustainability of the relevant DEWATS. A total of 8 technical staff attended the training.

During the workshop, the major components and challenges of managing DEWATS were highlighted. The sessions were followed by a field visit where participants had the opportunity to observe, contextualize and discuss the theoretical lessons in practice.

Overall, the attendees expressed confidence in their ability to effectively manage DEWATS systems at their respective facilities. They emphasized the importance of continued support and capacity-building initiatives to further enhance their expertise in sanitation management. The workshop served as a catalyst for empowering technical staff and operators to play a proactive role in ensuring the efficient O&M of sanitation infrastructure, ultimately contributing to improved public health outcomes in their communities.



Public Health Promotion

Oxfam's WASH program in Tajikistan concluded that local health workers lacked the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to provide community members with relevant and digestible information. To solve this problem, Equidev conducted a training session for local medical workers in the Sarvoda Rural Hospital and Central District Hospital of Ayni district, in cooperation with the BORDA team. The aim of the training was to build the capacity of local health professionals on key hygiene and sanitation practices to promote behaviour change at the community level. In total, 38 local health workers (18 women and 20 men) were trained in basic behavioural change communication strategies and basic preventive practices in sanitation, waterborne diseases, personal hygiene, and safe toilets. The hope and expectation is that participants will disseminate health information to patients, their families, and the community. These key approaches lead to sustainable behavioural change and improved hygiene and sanitation in hospitals and communities, which in turn leads to improved health and productivity.



Revision of University Curriculum on Decentralized Sanitation System

Equidev is supporting the TTU in developing a course on decentralized sanitation systems to be integrated into the teaching curriculum as either a standalone subject or a module of an existing course. A Technical Working Group has been established (consisting of TTU teachers, professors, students and sanitation experts from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection) and various meetings and workshops have been conducted to further understand the content of the existing curriculum and the feasibility of incorporating the new course. The following course materials have been drafted and are currently under review:

- The university curriculum on decentralized sanitation services.
- The training courses for university professors.
- A DEWATS practical manual for students.



Comprehensive assessment of DEWATS



With support from BORDA, in November 2023 Equidev undertook a comprehensive assessment of DEWATS in Tajikistan, focusing on three main areas: system performance through lab analysis of wastewater and effluents, O&M insights, and an initial economic analysis.

The assessment began with a review of five DEWATS sites to understand site characteristics and operational timelines, followed by stakeholder interviews to plan further investigative activities. During site visits, questionnaires were administered and interviews conducted with key personnel, such as hospital managing doctors and DEWATS operators, to assess system conditions and gather data. An economic analysis was also conducted to estimate preliminary costs over a typical 20-year system lifespan, considering construction and ongoing maintenance expenses.

Further lab analyses of DEWATS performance are scheduled for 2024.

4. PARTICIPATION IN CALLS FOR PROPOSAL



Successful proposals

- ✓ Implementation of the “Three Stars Approach” on WASH in schools of Tajikistan, in partnership with UNICEF and with funds from the European Union.
- ✓ Family poultry production in partnership with DAI Global and with funds from USAID.



Proposals in progress

- 🕒 Construction of a sanitation facility for a hospital in the Ayni district, in partnership with the German Embassy.
- 🕒 Construction of a sanitation facility for a hospital in the Faizobod district, in partnership with the German Embassy.
- 🕒 Early child development project, in partnership with New York University.
- 🕒 Disaster Risk Reduction, in partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.
- 🕒 WASH project, in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation.



COMPLETED, ONGOING AND UPCOMING PROJECTS

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project Name	End Date	Donor	Budget
DEWATS for the central hospital, Ayni district	30-Aug-23	Lions Club	USD 205,000
DEWATS for the Sarvoda rural hospital, Ayni district	30-Aug-23	Lions Club	USD 131,300
Sanitation facility for a hospital in the Hisor district	18-Jul-23	German Embassy	EUR 14,400
Sanitation facility for a hospital in the Vahdat district	18-Jul-23	German Embassy	EUR 13,000

ONGOING PROJECT

Project Name	End Date	Donor	Budget
Building knowledge and awareness on sustainable sanitation solutions	30-Nov-24	Swiss Government	USD 730,520

UPCOMING PROJECTS

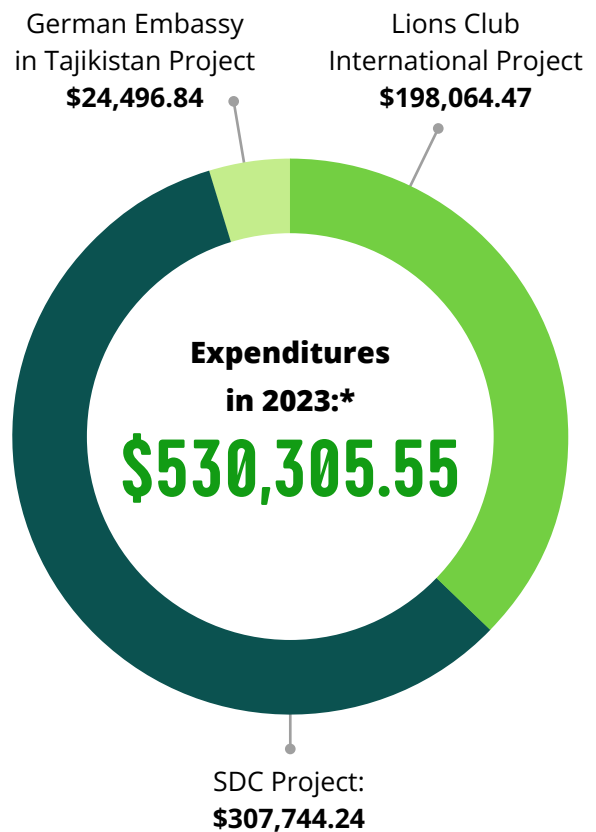
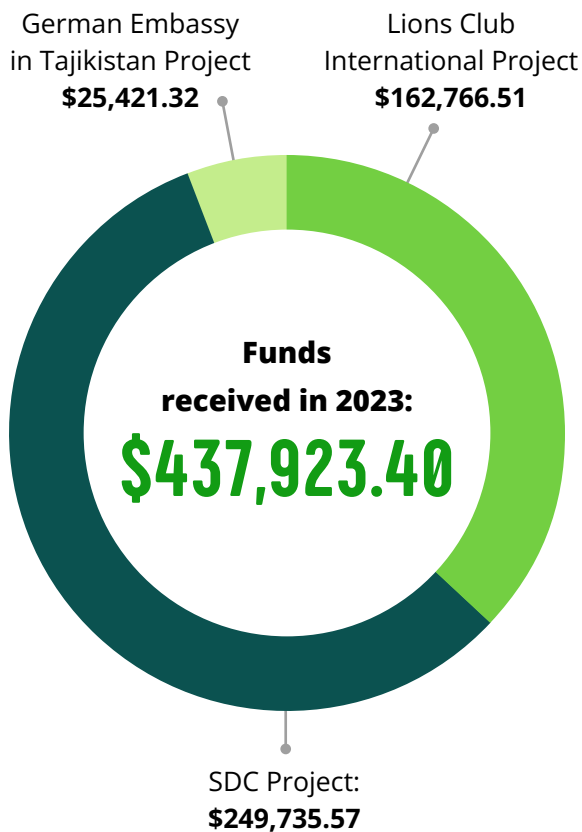
Project Name	End Date	Donor	Budget
Implementation of "Three Stars Approach" on WASH in schools of Tajikistan	31-Dec-24	European Union	USD 199,751
Family poultry production	30-Sep-24	USAID	USD 22,648



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In the fiscal year 2023, Equidev demonstrated a strong financial performance, driven by diversified funding sources and prudent financial management. This section provides an overview of the organization’s financial health, highlighting the key contributions from our valued donors and how these funds were allocated to support our mission.

TOTAL FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE 2023		
Donor	Project	Project duration
Lions Club International	WASH	2021-2024
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	WASH	2022-2024
German Embassy in Tajikistan	WASH	2023



*Expenditures for the Lions Club International and SDC-funded projects exceeded the funds received in 2023 due to the additional use of funds received in 2022.



Transparency and Accountability

Equidev remains committed to transparency, accountability, and compliance with all relevant laws and standards. Our rigorous financial practices ensure that funds are used effectively and efficiently to maximize impact.

Equidev conducts comprehensive financial audits every two years to ensure ongoing transparency and accountability. The next audit, covering the fiscal years 2023-2024, will provide an in-depth review of our financial practices and performance. Detailed insights and findings from this audit will be presented in the 2024 annual report, further illustrating our commitment to maintaining high standards of financial integrity.



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