Gravity flow water system

This technology is often used in hilly, rural areas where people used to have to carry water long distances over steep terrain. Our partners tap a spring or dam a small unpolluted stream and the water flows downhill into storage tanks. These tanks then feed tapstands in the heart of the community. The power of gravity means there is no need for expensive pumps, so the overall costs are low.

The spring or stream is tapped, dammed and fenced off to prevent contamination.

The reservoir tank stores enough water based on the community’s needs.

Where possible, the main pipeline is laid in a trench to protect it from damage.

Tapstands are placed around the village to reduce the distance people have to carry water.

“We used to have to walk for an hour to get to the source and then we often had to queue for four or five hours until it was our turn to collect water.”

Akeza Hadish, at a gravity-fed water point, Korkora, Tigray, Ethiopia

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