



# Rainwater Harvesting Implementation Network

## Factsheet

More than 1 billion human beings – that is one person in six – have no choice but to use potentially harmful sources of water. Considerably more have inadequate access to water, struggling each day to procure sufficient to meet their basic needs. Safe drinking water is crucial for the health and economic status of households. The consequence of insufficient water is a bleak future for the billions of people locked in a cycle of poverty and disease. In contrast, adequate water supports food gardens, the keeping of livestock, processing of crops, and small-scale economic enterprises. Such water-enabled opportunities empower people to improve their livelihoods, providing them with more security and new choices.

Rainwater harvesting (RWH) has been practised for centuries and is a simple and low-cost technique. Through its decentralised nature, RWH enables people at household and community level to manage their own water, reducing reliance on central supply systems that are often either absent, unreliable or too expensive. Rainwater is collected from rooftops or from surface water runoff and is stored in above and belowground tanks. Collected rainwater can also be used to recharge depleted groundwater reservoirs. Storing water in ephemeral riverbeds using sand dams is another option. Using these techniques can contribute substantially to year-round availability of adequate safe water.

### The RAIN Foundation

The RAIN Foundation (Rainwater Harvesting Implementation Network) is a result-oriented rainwater harvesting organisation with a focus on wide-scale implementation of appropriate techniques and strengthening of local organisational capacity. RAIN ensures integration of RWH in water and sanitation, educational and health programmes through partnerships with international organisations such as the Southern and Eastern Africa Rainwater Network (SearNet) and the *Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible coût* (CREPA).

RAIN, registered in the Netherlands, is administered by a Board and advised by an International Advisory Committee consisting of international key-players in the international water sector. RAIN receives support from international NGOs, multi- and bilateral donors and private institutions (e.g. the Dutch Government, PLAN Netherlands, Aqua4All, *Fondation Ensemble*, Swiss Re).

### Our Vision

RAIN envisions a world in which all people have access to a reliable source of clean water, thereby being empowered to improve their lives through better health, food security and education. RAIN demonstrates that rainwater harvesting is the most sustainable and economic means for multiple-use water provision in regions where groundwater is not accessible, drinkable or insufficient to meet demand.

RAIN will directly contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In 2015, people living mainly in remote rural areas will benefit from rainwater harvesting systems as a reliable source of water, safeguarding their livelihoods from surface and groundwater exploitation and climatic unpredictability.

### Our Mission

RAIN aims to increase access to water on a global scale through the collection of rainwater, for vulnerable sectors of society and women and children in particular, with a focus on developing countries and regions where other means of water supply are not possible.



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RAIN's approach to achieving its mission:

- Improving access to safe drinking water by collecting and storing rainwater using simple and economical techniques with an emphasis on constant improvement and adaptation to the local setting.
- Ensuring sustainability through a participatory approach with local ownership, management, capacity building, and learning.
- Developing partnerships within the water sector to increase effectiveness.
- Applying Performance Measurement methods to supply the programme and its partners with accurate information on effects, impacts and performance.

## What we do

RAIN provides funds for the implementation of small-scale rainwater harvesting projects through local organisations. RAIN is presently implementing rainwater harvesting projects in West Africa (Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso), Ethiopia and Nepal and intends to expand in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa in the near future. In addition, the programme facilitates global exchange of knowledge on rainwater harvesting between partners and other interested organisations.

Since 2003, RAIN has facilitated the construction of almost 1.8 million litres of rainwater harvesting capacity by local organisations, benefiting about 12,000 people at household level, schools, community centres and health posts.

RAIN's West Africa Programme, funded by the Dutch ministry of Development Cooperation with a grant of 3.3 million euro for the period of 2006 - 2011, will result in the construction of more than 20 million litres of rainwater harvesting capacity, benefiting thousands of people in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal.

In Ethiopia, RAIN is broadening its programme in scope and size. Funding has been secured for water harvesting activities in a critically dry region of Southern Ethiopia until 2009. This will benefit at least 3,000 people by providing water for both domestic and productive use. In Nepal, RAIN has developed a partnership with a successful local biogas programme, the approach of which is considered to be applicable for RWH implementation.

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*Pictures from left to right: (i) 6,500 litre ferrocement tank shining in the morning sun in Ghaderi Khairikot, Nepal. (ii) Proud owners of a 10,000 litre ferrocement tank in Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso. (iii) Waiting in line to get rainwater from a 40.000 litre tank in Hantezo Bubisa, Ethiopia (© RAIN)*