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The IRHA team is pleased to present the annual report for the year 2020.

We thank all the donors and partner institutions who trust us with their support in implementing sustainable responses.

We are grateful for the hard work of our local partners, who face difficulties on the ground every day and work wonders in support of the communities our projects support.

Finally, if you wish to participate in this movement, we warmly invite you to join the Alliance or become a member of the IRHA association; please, contact us for more information.

### Glossary

APAF: The Association for the Promotion of Fertilizer Trees, Agroforestry and Forestry.

**BV: Watershed** 

CTA: Agroforestry Technical Advisor

CVA: Village Agroforestry Committee

DRR/GRD: Disaster Risk Reduction /Gestion des Risques et désastres

EbA: Ecosystem Based Adaptation

FEBA: Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (an IUCN-hosted group)

GEP/RWH: Rainwater Harvesting / Gestion des Eaux de Pluie

GIS: Geographic Information Systems

IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management IRHA: International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance IUCN: International Union of Nature Conservation IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management

KN: Kanchan Nepal

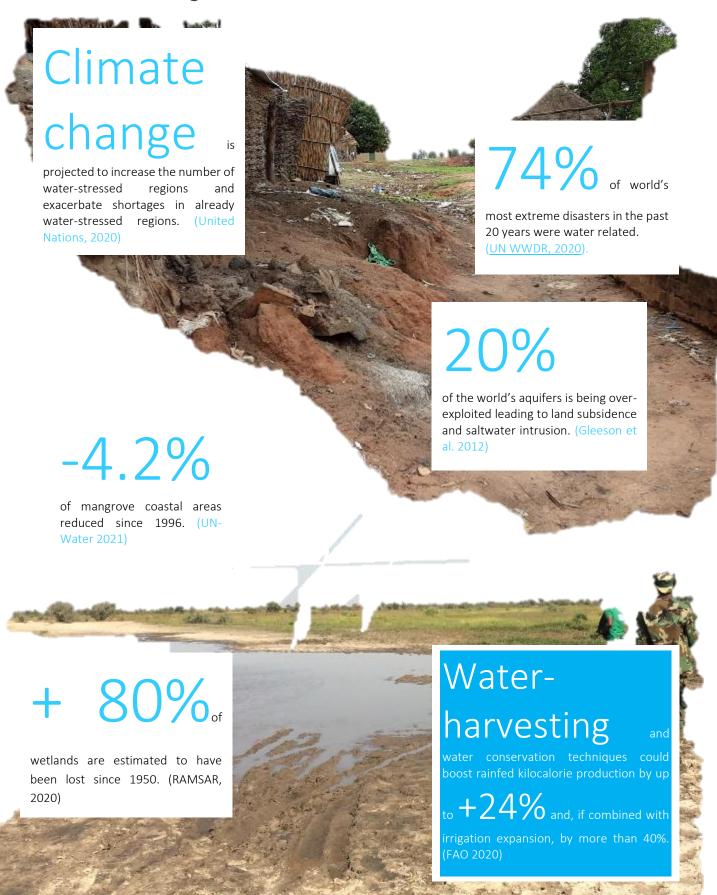
M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation SARNET: South Asia Rainwater Network SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

**UN: United Nations** 

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### The Challenges





people around the world lack safe drinking water. (WHO/UNICEF 2019)

Only 14

countries report high levels of community and user participation for collaborative management and decision-making. (UN-Water 2021)

50% of the schools in the

world do not have handwashing facilities with soap and water. (WHO/UNICEF 2020)

Rainwater is an innovative response to overcome the challenges of water scarcity, droughts and floods and strengthen the resilience of communities and local ecosystems, in the face of natural disasters and climate change.

Better Rainwater

management at the domestic

and municipal level could improve drastically livelihoods while protecting ecosystems:

One Word: collect, store and

use



As such, rainwater management is fully in response to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 17), which we are making concrete through implementation of international projects, support for municipalities and local authorities and awareness-raising projects.

### SDG1 / SDG4 / SDG5 - In many

contexts, rainwater is a free and available resource that can play a key role, with a low environmental footprint, in realizing the human right to water. In many countries where we operate, it is mainly women and girls who are responsible for collecting water. They must make sure that the family has 30 to 50 liters per day, in order to meet daily needs.

### SDG6 / SDG13 - Strategic rainwater

management is proving to be an innovative and effective response to the water scarcity faced by communities, but also to increasingly droughts and floods, exacerbated by climate change (IPCC, 2014). Rainwater can be used as drinking water, and thus cover the daily needs of families, improve hygiene, in addition to other types of supply sources.

### SDG2 / SDG15 - Rainwater harvesting

can thus serve domestic, agricultural and even industrial needs, and therefore relieve the growing pressure on groundwater resources and freshwater. Rainwater strengthens the resilience of rural communities facing climate change.

SDG11 - The management of rainwater in cities is certainly one of the measures with the highest added value (and even more so in development contexts) of the 21st century.

Managing rainwater in the city makes it possible to reintroducing nature, refreshing urban areas, managing runoff economically, managing precipitations while improving significantly conditions in the city.

SDG17 - Working in partnership and synergy with the actors involved at national levels is the very essence of our ALLIANCE. Connect initiatives in Mexico, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Senegal, Malawi and carry the message to decision makers.

## A word from the IRHA President



It was a hot morning in Hinnavaru island in the Maldives. I was happy to get a glass of rainwater to drink. Over 75% of the island population in the Maldives uses rainwater for drinking and cooking. And for other domestic needs they pump water from the freshwater lens that floats

on the saline groundwater. The challenge is to collect and store sufficient safe rainwater to last through the dry season. Drinking water produced by reverse osmosis (RO) is too expensive. Thus, the islands search for ways to augment public water supply with rainwater.

In such situations one values water. Water for drinking, water for personal hygiene, now so important with COVID, and water for local economic activities.

In 2020, IRHA has again been happy to contribute to helping people and communities to take better care of their water security. Our projects have proven effective and find renewal in further projects by our partners. Engagement with local government and with research institutions ensure that the experiences flow further.

IRHA and the IRHA committee represent expertise and commitment from all over the world. It helps IRHA to reach out to countries and agencies and support their efforts to mainstream rainwater as a solution for the 8% of households for whom no other domestic supply is near, as a way for them to adopt agro-forestry to revitalize their dry ands, and so much more, when you have some water....

For many households, COVID has shown the value of having a rainwater tank nearby. During lockdowns the family can still tap water, as was highlighted in a March 21 webinar of the South Asia Rainwater Network (SARNET), hosted by Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum, an alliance partner of IRHA.

The Alliance partners around the globe, in Sri Lanka, Malawi, Mexico, to name a few, offer us the inspiration and strength to redouble our efforts to advocate and promote rainwater applications by example, to policy makers and donor agencies. This annual report celebrates the achievements made in a difficult year for all, sustained by the contributions of our many sponsors, partners and committed staff.

Han Heijnen - President of the Committee

## A word from the IRHA Director



In 2020, cities in the 'global north' have begun to improve their management of rainwater flows. IRHA have recently compared stormwater retention actions in the USA (Washington City; Panorama, LA) as co-authors on an Urban

Ecosystem-based Adaptation technical paper led by colleagues at PlanAdapt and the IUCN. Effective urban stormwater management will increasingly preoccupy city councils, not only in the 'global north', but also in the 'global south'.

Faced with floods, droughts, soil loss, deforestation, lowering water tables, and the increased eutrophication of river estuaries, we need to reconsider how rainwater moves through urban and rural systems in a *functional* way.

'Systems-thinking' invites a holistic approach to rainwater management, putting WASH, water retention and detention structures, livelihood provision and biodiversity into productive conversation. It asks that we recognise how ecosystems and manmade infrastructure co-exist in states of dynamic interaction.

Enhancing the *functionality* of rainwater and runoff management involves recognising feedbacks between hydrological, geological, biological and social systems *in a given place* with specific, local or indigenous communities. The IRHA association commit to this nitty-gritty, practical endeavour in our new strategy (2021-2028).

We look forward to developing this systems approach in collaboration with local, partner NGOs; Alliance partners, including the national rainwater harvesting bodies (*c.f.* Sri Lanka, Mexico, Cambodia, Malawi, the USA and Ghana); the University of Florence's Water Harvesting Lab, and fellow Friends of EbA (FEBA) members.

As we accelerate our project implementation in the decade of ecosystem restoration, we proudly share our 2020 annual report. These pages demonstrate how the institutional donors, foundations and partners that support our mandate have again enabled IRHA to valorise the role of rainwater in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Marc Sylvestre - Director

Sylvestre



# The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

#### Who?

The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance is a Swiss non-governmental organisation founded in 2002 in Geneva. The NGO implements rainwater management development projects in developing countries in order to improve the health and living conditions of communities and to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems to climate change.

#### Why?

Rainwater is a good quality resource, available free of charge, and is an effective and sustainable lever for climate change adaptation. Rain, often considered as a nuisance or a threat, becomes instrumental in ensuring community resilience. Effective rainfall management can mitigate the risk of natural hazards, and offer a pathway for sustainable development by increasing food security.

#### How?

The IRHA association's mandate focuses on: a) implementing field-based pilot projects to demonstrate effective rainwater management; b) training communities in water resource management, and c) advocating for integrated water resource management at local, national and international levels, to accelerate multiple SDGs' implementation (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 et 17).

We have a 5-pronged strategy: 1) Rainwater, Hygiene and Sanitation (RHS); 2) Rainwater, Agriculture and Food Security; 3) Rainwater, Risk and Ecosystem Management; 4) Urban Rainwater; 5) Rainwater Advocacy.

#### What?

Our *pilot projects* are currently implemented in Senegal and Nepal, where thousands of people lack access to clean drinking water and are exposed to climate change hazards. We *convene* the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance and develop our advocacy in dialogue with IUCN and UN bodies.

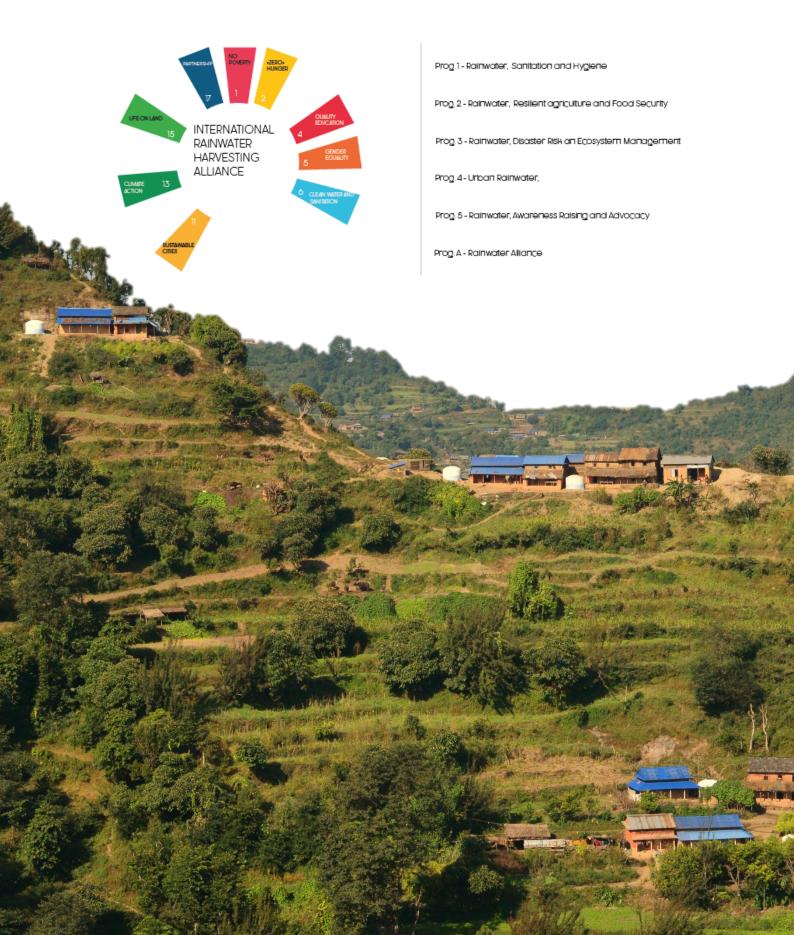
#### Our Competencies?

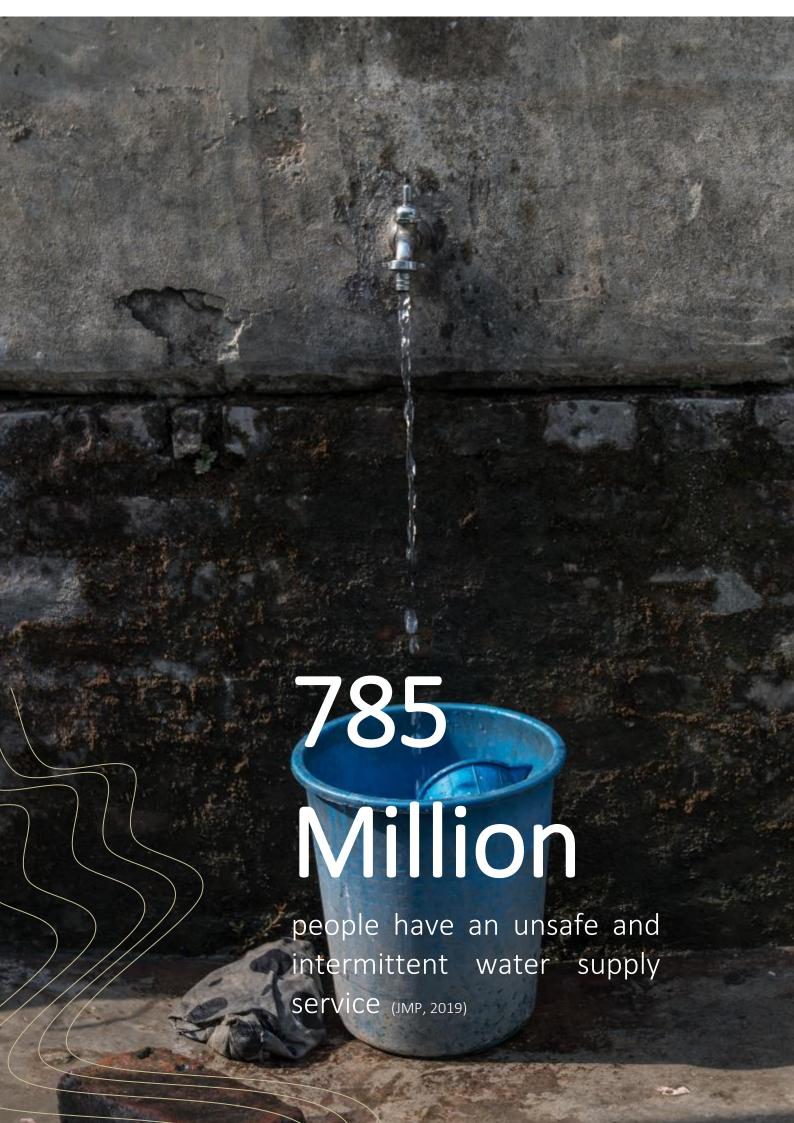
- > Context-specific expertise in planning, developing and implementing stormwater management systems;
- > Decision-making tools to assist local politicians and communities in blue, green and grey infrastructure management to further economically-sound, sustainable development (GIS, participatory mapping expertise, M&E templates);
- > Training in rainwater management techniques to develop the capacities of local decision makers, technical staff and young professionals; thus, supporting their water conservation and climate change resilience focused actions.
- > An archive of international, rainwater harvesting actors and expertise.



2017-2021 Framework I It helped IRHA to clarify its positioning, programmes, countries of intervention and implementation methodologies. This strategy have enabled a better assessment of the organisation's performance and progress at the operational, organisational and financial levels.

2021-2028 I A new strategic framework will be developed by mid-2021. This will aim to draw lessons from the 2017-2021 strategy, position the IRHA on current issues, define solid and appropriate results and performance indicators to continue to grow the IRHA and respond efficiently to current challenges.





## 2020 Countries of intervention (1973 SEN1801 SEN1901 NEP 1902\_GIRE NEP2001\_Kalika Blue School Projects in development Ongoing projects NEP2201TOB\_Raincommunity\_Tobang NEP1902\_Integrated water resources management NEP2101TOB\_Blue School\_Tobang NEP2001\_Kalika Blue School SEN2101FIK\_ Mangrove\_Fatick SEN1801\_Rain, Forest and People SEN2102KAK\_Ecosystem\_Kaolack SEN1901\_Of earth and rain GHA2101KAR\_ Blue School\_Karaga



### > Rainwater & WASH

### The Blue Schools programme

Partner: Kanchan Nepal NGO

Location: Kaski District, Pokhara Region, Nepal







### Context

Kanchan Nepal works in the water-scarce Kalika-Majhtana-Hansapur and Rupakot-Thumki regions since 2011. This local NGO is a highly qualified implementer decentralised, integrated rainwater harvesting infrastructure. It collaborates with a number of national and international agencies.

Since 2013, IRHA has partnered with Kanchan Nepal, working on a *Blue School*, rainwater harvesting programme. Together, we have developed 10 Blue Schools reaching more than , using rainwater harvesting to provide drinking water on pre-existing campuses, improve their hygiene and sanitation provision, including waste management, and establish school gardens and orchards that provide shade and comestible products.

### Project Impact

Improving the water-access, sanitation and hygiene facilities of ten, rural Nepalese communities; thus, safeguarding their health.

### Objectives

- 1) Improving the WASH infrastructure of schools for students and teachers, using a blue-green-grey approach;
- 2) Improving the technical and agricultural water resource management capacities of the local community.



### Monitoring and Evaluation of the Blue Schools Programme

Partners: Kanchan Nepal NGO

Location: Kaski District, Pokhara Region, Nepal

Beneficiaries: over 9 Blue Schools

In 2019, to ensure that the IRHA's Blue School projects' lasting impact, we evaluated the standard of 9 establishments in which our organisation has introduced this infrastructure in the Kaski District region.

Prior to the implementation of the Blue Schools programme, local schools faced severe water shortages. Students often had to carry water to their homes and schools. Also, good sanitation facilities were lacking; communities were unfamiliar with improved hygiene practices, and open defecation was common. Thus, the school grounds were unpleasant places, their soils heavily eroded.

The IRHA Blue School programme has improved the water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) provision in these 9 institutions. Optimising students' learning environment boosts their desire to learn.

As part of the Blue School programme, children learnt about water contamination, agroecology, and waste management. Villagers wishing learning more sustainable farming techniques were also trained in these techniques; thus, the programme benefited a wider community.









## > Rainwater & resilient agriculture

## >The 'Rain, Forests and People' & 'Of Earth and Rain' Projects

Partners: APAF Senegal, the École Polytechnique Fédérale

 $\ de\ Lausanne\ ({\it EPFL})\ and\ De\ Gevulde\ Waterkruik.$ 

Locations: Fatick and Kaolack, Senegal

Project Participants: 75 family farms (Fatick) + 35 family

farms (Kaolack)







### Context

In Senegal deforestation and intensive agriculture has depleted soil nutrients, crop yields and farmers' incomes. Many members of these farming communities migrate to the cities in search of work.

By developing projects that combine rainwater management, agroforestry and capacity building, the IRHA and our partners are countering this trend in urban migration.

Our EbA approach is multi-faceted, addressing the wellbeing of communities and the ecosystems that support them.

### Project Impact

The *Rain, Forest and People* project advances villagers' food sovereignty and resilience to climate change in Senegal's Fatick region. The *Of Earth and Rain* project operates with the same aims in the Kaolak region.

### Objectives

- 1) to strengthen stakeholders' capacity to restore and manage natural resources (water, trees, soil).
- 2) to increase the productivity of 75 family farms using an EbA approach.

### Project Video Link

https://youtu.be/dlQweePxDjM





## > Rainwater, EbA and IWRM

### > The Rain Communities Project







### Context

Nepal, nestled in the Himalayas, is one of the poorest countries in the world. Rural mountain communities often depend on rainfall for their crops and spring water for their drinking water supply. However, with the rapid acceleration of climate change, springs can run dry, and the monsoon rains can be more intense, destroying crops.

Establishing a reliable water supply is crucial for mountain villages. Rainwater harvesting has an important role to play in achieving this objective. Local, catchment-based rainwater retention helps replenish groundwater resources, ensuring that spring water can supply villagers needs for more months of the year. While rainwater can be harvested in tanks for cooking, drinking and washing purposes, spring water remains an important domestic water resources for many households. Effective, catchment-based rainwater retention also ensures a water supply for agricultural purposes, including crop irrigation and animal husbandry.

### Project Impact

The Rain Communities project aims to improve the resilience of rural Nepalese communities and their ecosystems to climate change related hazards including drought and floods. It improves the surface and groundwater water supply available to target communities by combining Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Integrated Water Resource Management approaches (EbA; IWRM).

### Objectives

- 1) To establish an action plan for catchment-scale, IWRM and EbA involving multiple stakeholders (c.f. village communities, local authorities, forestry services).
- 2) To improve rainwater retention using a combination of blue-green and grey infrastructures (*c.f.* ponds, reforestation & tanks).
- 3) To strengthen the technical and management capacities of field actors (c.f. NGOs, farmers, cooperatives).
- 4) To develop sustainable farming practices (agroforestry, agroecology).





### > Rain management for permeable and resilient cities





Improving urban stormwater management in the Global South is recognised as a key adaptation strategy in a context of climate change.

Global North countries are increasingly implementing "onsite", green-blue stormwater management policies, and those in the Global South are recognizing their importance in National Adaptation Plans.

The many social and ecological benefits associated with an EbA approach to Urban stormwater management include reducing: flood-associated risks during intense rainfall events; air pollution; urban heat islands and the eutrophication of local marine and freshwater ecosystems. Urban EbA approaches also increase: biodiversity, property values, urban aesthetics and people's sense of wellbeing (PSEAU, 1993).

In making cities 'water transparent', IRHA's framing of Urban EbA emphasises 3 working principles:

- 1) Rainwater retention in soils, unconfined aquifers.
- 2) Conserving or increasing on-site vegetation, and choosing resilient, site-specific, indigenous plant combinations adapted to local rainfall regimes.
- 3) Engaging with local communities to advance social and climate justice principles through the creation of blue-green infrastructure that is of value to these communities (c.f. livelihood and health improvements, reduced risk to natural hazards).

We emphasise that stormwater runoff should be disconnected from the sewerage system and, as far as possible, reused.

Grey infrastructure should be the exception not the rule! It is time to get unplugged!

### #unplugged





### > Axis A: The Alliance



For 19 years, the IRHA association have worked to establish an international Alliance of partner organisations involved in sustainable rain/stormwater management.

The Alliance welcomes the participation of national rainwater harvesting organisations, water- and agriculture-focused NGOs, local authorities, private sector companies and individuals, who recognise the role rainwater plays in ensuring the resilience of communities and ecosystems.

Since 2019, our secretariat has affirmed our collaboration with the following partners: the Water Harvesting Lab, University of Florence; the FEBA network; the Global Water Partnership; the Swiss Community of Practice, AGUASAN; the Rural Water Supply Network; the Graie; *de Gevulde Waterkruik*; the American Rainwater Catchment System Association (ARCSA); the Mexican association for the promotion of rainwater (AMSCALL); the Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum, the South East Asian Rainwater network (SEARNET) and the Malawi Rainwater Association.

We have also participated in some thirty events to advocate for the role of integrated rainwater management at local, national and international levels, and to promote South-South collaboration in rainwater management and advocacy.

In the coming three years, we aim to create a series of members' forums (online meetings and workshops, a dedicated website) to share practical knowledge between Alliance members. We also aim to identify and design joint campaigns, publications and events to amplify the reach of our rainwater management advocacy, particularly as framed by SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 17 and by EbA principles.









THE AMERICAN RAINWATER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (ARCSA)

Part of :









### **UNIFID**<sup>sa</sup>

Report of the auditors on the limited statutory examination

to the General Meeting of the members of

INTERNATIONAL RAINWATER
HARVESTING ALLIANCE
Geneva

Dear Sirs,

As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, operating statement and notes) of INTERNATIONAL RAINWATER HARVESTING ALLIANCE for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operation of processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss GAAP FER and the INTERNATIONAL RAINWATER HARVESTING ALLIANCE's articles of Association.

Geneva, March 12th, 2021

UNIFID SA

A. PASQUIER Licensed audit (FAOA)

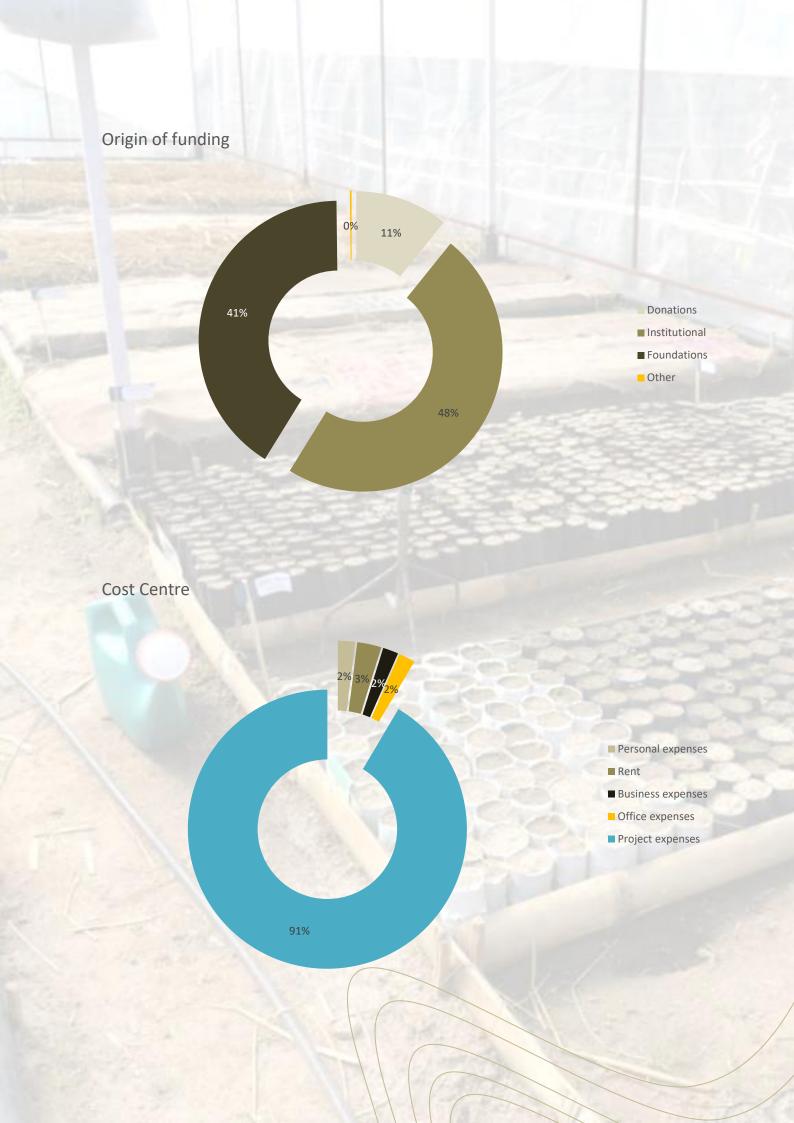
N. ROBERT
Licensed audit expert (FAOA)
Auditor in charge

### Enclosure:

- balance sheet
- operating statement
- notes to the financial statements

## Balance sheet as at

31/12/20		
	2020	2019
In CHF*.		
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	135 176	181 307
Accounts receivable	15 079	
Prepaid expenses	530	431
Total current assets	150 785	181 737
Financial assets	2 246	2 246
Total assets	153 031	183 984
Liabilities & own funds		
Account payable	17 737	2 524
Accrued expenses and deferred income	2 200	2 150
Total liabilities	19 937	4 674
Restricted funds		
deferred income ( <i>project funds</i> )	130 078	176 314
Total restricted funds	130 078	176 314
Loan		
Loan from a third party	0	0
Total Loan	0	0
Own funds		
Accumulated results	2 996	2 809
Result for the year	20	187
Total own funds	3 016	2 996
Total liabilities and equity	153 031	183 984



Statement of Operations		
<i>AS AT 31/12/20</i> in CHF	2020	2019
INCOME		
Private donations	23 373	26 823
Institutional contributions	111 374	173 500
Private foundations	95 000	72 000
Other income	405	
Total income	230 152	272 323
Expenditure		
Personnel costs	5 802	9 352
Office premises	7 791	7 689
Professional fees	4 704	4 154
Office expenses	5 188	5 196
Project expenditure	252 609	169 820
Total expenditure	276 094	196 212
Intermediate result	-45 942	76 111
Financial result	-274	-244
Operating surplus/deficit prior to allocation	-46 216	75 867
Changes in restricted funds		
Allocation	-206 373	-245 500
Use	252 609	169 820
	232 003	103 020
Result of the year	20	187

the audited and approved version is written in English

Full annual financial statements audited by our auditors are available on request



days Of a value



days

CHF 80,600



110 working

days

CHF 25,500





## IRHA\_Rapport annuel\_EN\_2020\_Final\_V3\_LO W+Audit

Final Audit Report 2021-04-28

Created: 2021-04-28

By: IRHA Genève (secretariat@irha-h2o.org)

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