

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

IRHA

Colophon

Publisher
International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)
International Environment House II
Chemin de Balexert 9
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva - Switzerland
www.rainforchange.org | secretariat@irha-h2o.org

Bank Details
International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)
Account No.: 17-198970-3
IBAN: CH15 0900 0000 1719 8970 3 | BIC: POFICHBEXXX

Text, Editing, Layout, Coordination & Graphic Design
Yasmina Beck - IRHA

Proofreading
Marc Sylvestre, Marion Dunand & Florian Bielser - IRHA
Han Heijnen & Rachel Nisbet - IRHA Committee

Legal Information
Founded in 2002 | Registered in Geneva, Switzerland
UID: CHE-162.780.092 | Reg. No.: CH-660.2.267.019-0
Non-profit, public-benefit organization | Exempt from Swiss taxes

Date of Publication
June 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 02
A Year of Expanding Impact

2. OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS 04
Impact at a Glance

3. LETTER FROM THE MANAGEMENT 06
Making Rain a Cornerstone of Resilience

4. WHO WE ARE 08
IRHA Committed to Development
- Our Mission 10
- Our Vision 11
- Our Contribution to the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 12
- Our Values 13
- Our Expertise 14

5. THE ALLIANCE AND OUR PARTNERS 16
Building Systems of Change Together
- Alliance Members 17
- IRHA Global Network Map 17
- Partnerships 18
  - Fédération Genevoise de Coopération

6. OUR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS 19
Strategy in Action
- Countries Operations Map 19
- Rainwater for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 20
  - Blue Schools Sri Lanka 21
  - Blue Schools Beyond Sri Lanka 22
- Rain-fed Agriculture and Food Sovereignty 24
  - Femmes de Terre et de Pluie 25
- Disaster Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration 26
  - Rain Community Sri Lanka 27
  - Rain Community Cambodia 28
  - Rain Community Nepal 29
  - Transition to agro-ecological Ecosystems 30
- Rain in the City 32
  - PluiË | Rain 35

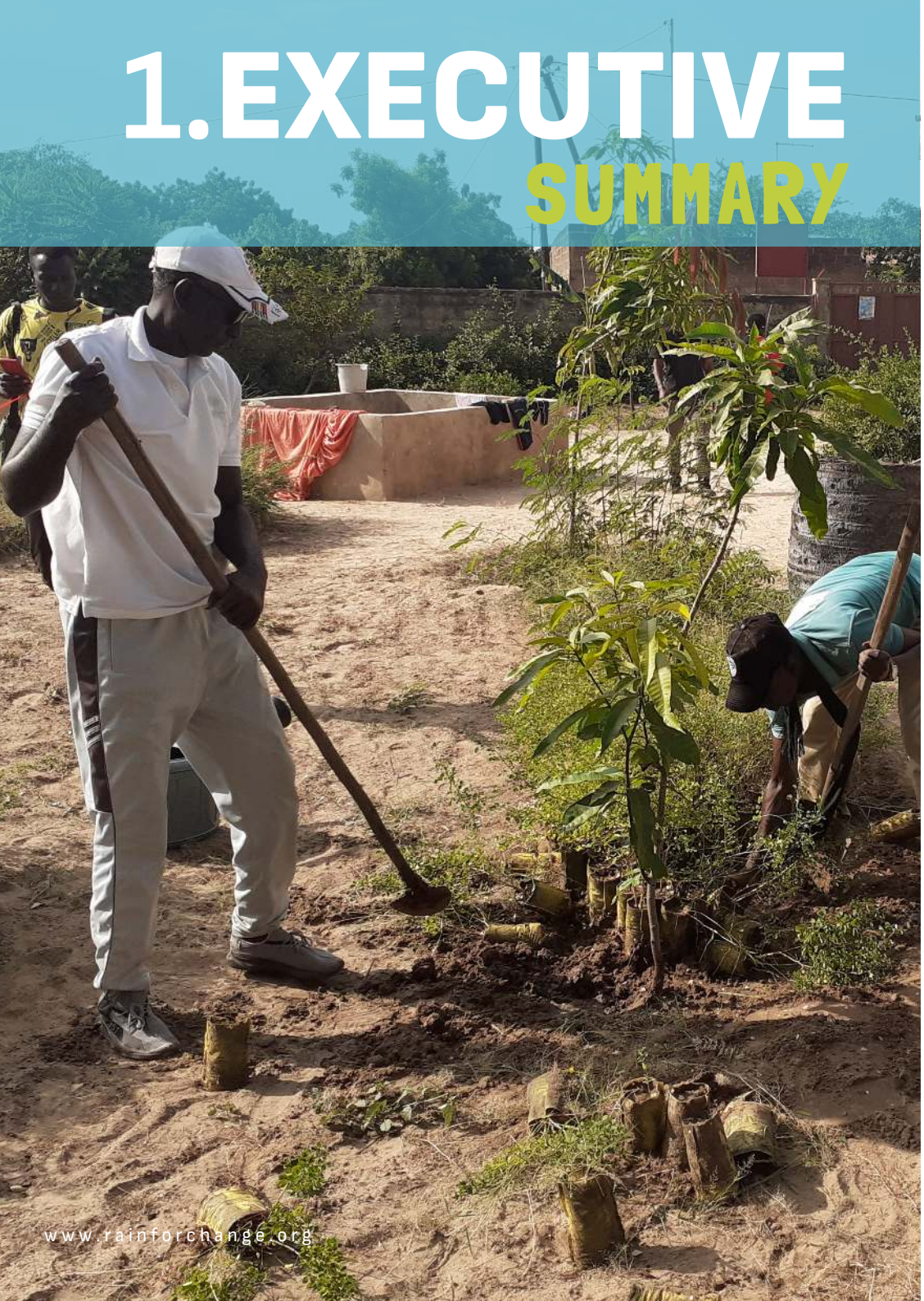
7. VOICES FROM THE FIELD 36
Every Drop, a Story

8. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 38
Financial Breakdown and Audit

9. OUR ORGANIZATION 42
- Committee
- Secretariat

10. THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 43
- Glossary of Key Terms and Abbreviations 44

1.EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



From Rainfall to Resilience
A Year of Expanding Impact

As climate variability intensifies and water insecurity deepens, 2025 confirmed a simple but critical reality: resilience begins with how we manage what already falls from the sky.

Throughout the year, IRHA strengthened its approach by expanding from proven field experience to broader, integrated action. Building on long standing programmes in Nepal and Senegal, new Rain Communities initiatives were launched in Sri Lanka and Cambodia, marking an important step in scaling impact across diverse geographies.

A Rain Community is a landscape approach to resilience. It manages rainwater as part of a connected system linking water, soil, vegetation, and livelihoods. By combining rainwater harvesting with soil and water conservation, agroecology, and ecosystem restoration, these initiatives help restore natural cycles, stabilize production, and reduce vulnerability to climate variability.

Alongside this expansion, IRHA's Blue School concept, pioneered in 2007, continues to grow beyond its origins. Now implemented by multiple organizations worldwide, it demonstrates how rainwater can improve water access, hygiene, and education while fostering long term environmental awareness.

Across all our programmes, communities remain at the center. From participatory watershed management in Asia to women led initiatives in Senegal, local knowledge, ownership, and leadership drive sustainable outcomes.

Beyond field implementation, IRHA also continues to connect practice with influence. Through knowledge sharing and engagement in global platforms such as World Water Week, the organization contributes to positioning rainwater harvesting as a practical and scalable response to water scarcity. Because the challenge is not only to access water, but to manage it wisely.

These efforts are part of a growing collective dynamic, shaped by communities, partners, and a global Alliance at the heart of IRHA.

Spanning five continents, it brings together scientists, practitioners, farmer organizations, educators, and public institutions working from local landscapes to global policy spaces.

More than a network, it is a community of trust where Alliance Members co-create solutions and strengthen impact. Together, we scale change, bridging local action and global influence with a shared commitment to practical and lasting solutions.

You too can be part of this momentum.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT.
HARVEST THE CHANGE.



2.OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Impact at a Glance

Indicator	2025	Cumulative Impact up to 2025
Beneficiaries	**7 634**	**234 215**
Indirect Beneficiaries	**14 364**	**782 950**
Liters of Safe Water	**640 000**	**5 710 000**
Blue Schools	3	72
Hand Washing Facilities	40	56
Water Tanks	70	118
Toilets for Girls and Boys	41	534
Urinals	0	283
Integrated Water Resources Management Trainings	125	911

Indicator	2025	Cumulative Impact up to 2025
Hectares of Restored Land	**62**	**145**
Edge Rows (ml)	1060	36 260
Planted Trees	15000	232991
Gabions (ml)	10	10 113
Earth Bunds (ml)	200	16 198
Ponds	8	21
Stone Bunds (ml)	0	15000
Half Moons	50	300
Well recharge	19	32
Spring Rehabilitation	2	4



3.LETTER
FROM MANAGEMENT



Making Rain a Cornerstone of Resilience





Dear friends, partners, and members of the IRHA community,

Water scarcity is no longer a distant risk—it is a defining challenge of our time. Across regions, access to safe drinking water is under pressure, while agriculture, ecosystems, and livelihoods are increasingly strained by climate variability. Both rural and urban communities face growing uncertainty, demanding solutions that are practical, scalable, and resilient.

Our 2026-30 approved strategy responds directly to this challenge by placing rainwater harvesting at the core of ecosystem-based adaptation. As a cost-effective and adaptable solution, it strengthens water security, supports agriculture, restores ecosystems, and enhances resilience in diverse contexts.

For millions of people unlikely to be served by piped water systems in the near future, rainwater remains a critical and reliable source. Demonstrating its potential to provide safe drinking water is central to our mission.

Building on successful experiences in Nepal and Senegal, programmes led by the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance have expanded to Sri Lanka and Cambodia, with Malawi as the next step. These efforts reflect a broader ambition: to scale impact beyond projects and into policies and systems.

A stronger Alliance is essential to this vision. By connecting practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers, we amplify knowledge, foster innovation, and accelerate action. Engagement in global platforms such as World Water Week further strengthens this momentum.

In 2026, we will deepen partnerships, support country-level implementation, and contribute to global advocacy, including the UN Water Conference. With strengthened foundations, including certification by the ZEWO Foundation, we are well positioned to expand our reach and impact.

Together, we can make rain a cornerstone of resilience.

With warm regards and renewed determination,

Han Heijnen, President
Marc Sylvestre, Director

4.WHO
WE ARE



IRHA Committed to Development

The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) is a Geneva-based non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to promoting **Integrated Water Resource Management** (IWRM)**, ecosystem restoration**, and **climate resilience** through nature-based solutions. Its approach to rainwater harvesting is based on water security through the sustainable capture, storage, and use of rainwater across both landscapes and domestic and institutional settings.

IRHA works primarily with **vulnerable communities facing water stress and climate extremes**, ensuring access to safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene, soil conservation, and environmental regeneration through community-driven approaches.

Through its programs, IRHA:

- Implements rainwater harvesting solutions that enhance **safe water supply**, public health, food sovereignty, and biodiversity **at household level as well as in schools and community institutions.**
- Restores degraded landscapes by reconnecting water, soil, and trees to regenerate ecosystems and support resilient livelihoods.
- Advocates for integrated rainwater management within public policies and water governance frameworks.



Our Mission

IRHA transforms water challenges into regenerative opportunities by promoting **rainwater harvesting, watershed management, and soil and water conservation** — enabling communities to achieve **water security, food sovereignty, and climate resilience**.

This mission is delivered through **safe domestic and institutional water supply**, alongside holistic landscape management and field proven techniques, from rainwater harvesting infrastructure to soil and water bio engineering, used to stabilize slopes, control erosion, restore degraded land, and manage water flow sustainably while improving access to safe water and strengthening public health.





Our Vision

IRHA envisions a world where **rainwater is recognized as a vital and strategic resource** – essential to both planetary health and human development.

Its vision is rooted in ecological balance and social equity, where rainwater harvesting and nature-based solutions help restore ecosystems, support communities, and reduce systemic inequalities.

IRHA works toward a future in which the most climate-affected populations have fair access to safe water, strengthened food systems, and the means to lead sustainable, dignified lives.

Our Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Local rain. Global goals.

IRHA aligns its work with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It contributes directly to several key objectives related to water, climate resilience, biodiversity, and social justice.

By integrating the SDGs into its action framework, IRHA ensures that rainwater management and ecosystem restoration become strategic tools for achieving global sustainability.

Rainwater remains an underused resource which, when managed properly, can significantly reduce poverty, enhance climate resilience, and improve both food and water security.

Our Values

Excellence & Innovation

IRHA combines scientific rigor with practical creativity to develop climate-smart, locally adapted solutions. Its commitment to continuous learning ensures that every project – from cistern to watershed – meets the highest standards of impact, efficiency, and care.

Innovation is not a luxury. It is dignity delivered with quality.

Integrity & Transparency

From village meetings to global forums, IRHA acts with honesty and accountability. Trust is earned through clarity, respect, and consistency – and maintained through long-term engagement.

Credibility is built drop by drop – in actions, not words.

Empathy & Empowerment

IRHA listens deeply and acts locally. By valuing traditional knowledge and co-creating solutions, it fosters true cooperation and empowerment – far from top-down models and any form of dependency.

Resilience is not delivered. It is cultivated – and it starts by listening.

Collaboration & Partnership

As an alliance not just in name but in spirit – with people and nature – IRHA bridges local and global actors – NGOs, municipalities, researchers, youth, and donors – to build solutions that outlast single projects and transcend silos.

No one harvests alone. Change is a collective act.

Sustainability & Responsibility

IRHA embeds environmental, social, and economic sustainability into every layer of its work. Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, each project is designed to restore ecosystems, reduce inequalities, and regenerate futures.

We do not just aim for impact. We aim for balance.

Our Expertise

IRHA is a recognized leader in rainwater harvesting, watershed management, and ecosystem restoration.

With **over 20 years of field experience**, IRHA delivers context-specific, nature-based solutions that generate measurable, long-lasting impact across diverse geographies and sectors.





What Sets IRHA apart

Proven, locally adapted expertise

Deep experience in rainwater harvesting, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), soil and water conservation, and landscape restoration — including in post-crisis and climate-sensitive contexts.

End-to-end project management

From feasibility assessments to implementation, monitoring, and sustainability planning, IRHA ensures technical excellence and long-term capacity transfer to local actors.

A global Alliance of trusted partners

Operates through the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance — a dynamic network of NGOs, municipalities, researchers, and institutions working across regions and disciplines.

A committed player in water governance

Supports policymakers and international organizations in integrating rainwater harvesting into national adaptation strategies and water security frameworks.



5. THE ALLIANCE AND OUR PARTNERS



Building Systems of Change Together

The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance is more than an organization. it is a global network.

Since its creation, IRHA has united a growing Alliance of NGOs and expert partners across continents who share a common vision: rainwater is not a constraint – it is a catalyst. A natural, abundant, and often undervalued resource that can address some of today's most urgent challenges.

This decentralized, field-driven network brings together NGOs, researchers, technical actors, and civil society organizations, working collectively to turn rain into a driver of resilience and equity.

It is a living system of trust and collaboration, built on the belief that harvesting rain is a shared act of transformation.

The Alliance remains open to all who share this commitment : from grassroots groups and public institutions to private sector partners and engaged individuals.

IRHA Network

Our Alliance Members

- **American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association** (ARCSA International), The United States of America
- **Associação Brasileira de Captação e Manejo de Água de Chuva** (ABCMAC), Brazil
- **Asociación Mexicana de Sistemas de Captación de Agua de Lluvia** (AMSCALL), Mexico
- **Association Sénégalaise pour la Gestion de l'Eau de Pluie** (ASGEP), Senegal
- **Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum** (LRWHF), Sri Lanka
- **Madagascar Rainwater Harvesting Association** (MRHA), Madagascar
- **Nepal Rainwater Harvesting Alliance** (NRHA), Nepal
- **Rain for All**, Republic of Korea
- **Rainwater Association of Somalia** (RAAS), Somalia
- **Rainwater Harvesting Association of Malawi** (RHAM), Malawi
- **Rainwater Cambodia** (RWC), Cambodia

Alliance Members and Partnerships

Alliance Members
USA, Brazil, Mexico, Senegal,Somalia, Malawi Madagascar, Nepal, Sri Lanka,Cambodia South Korea.

Partnerships
Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, India.

Policy Highlights 2025
Saint Lucia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Thailand, Mongolia, Pakistan, Colombia



Source : www.irha-h2o.org/alliance



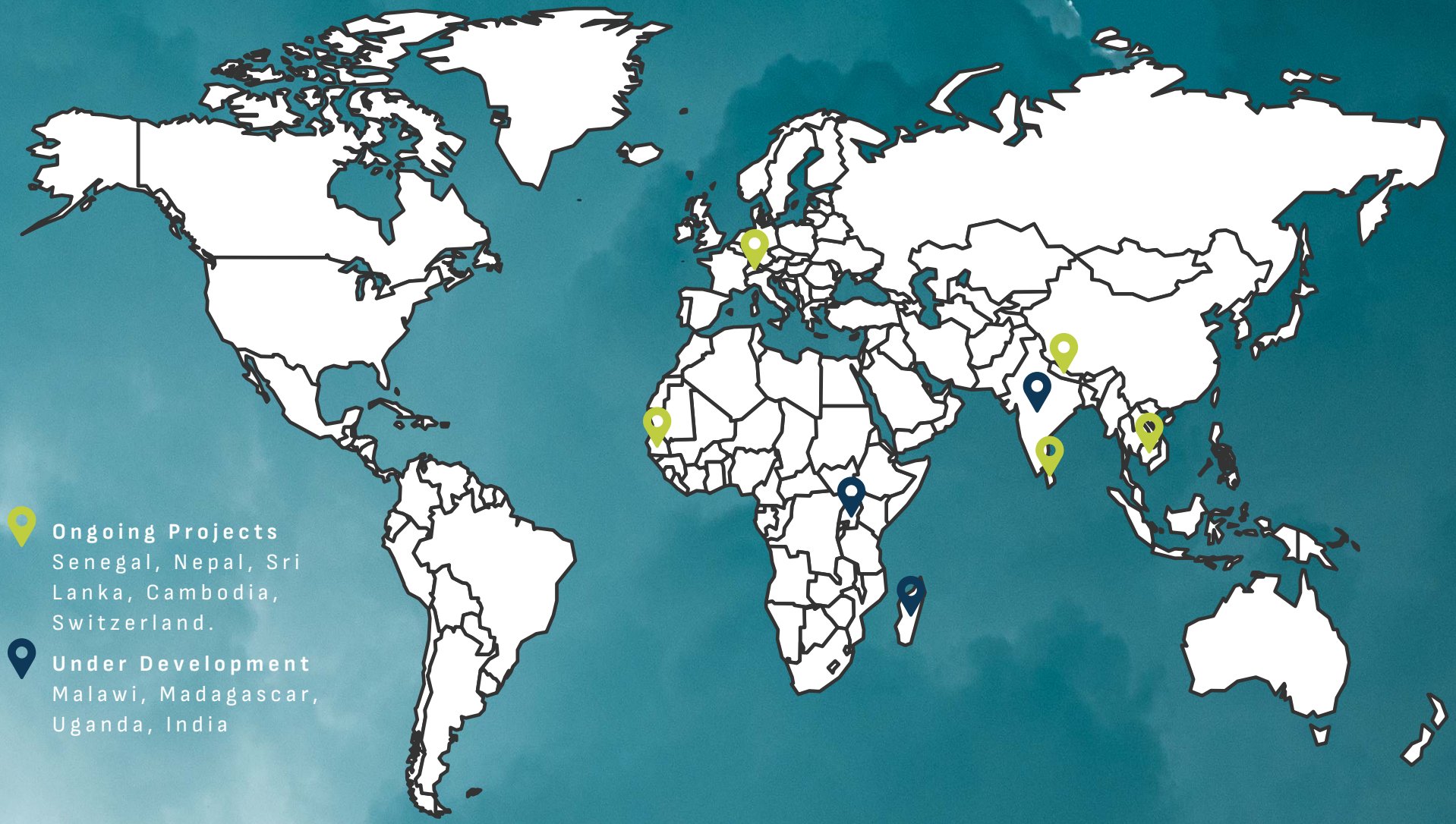
Partnerships

A Long Standing Partnership

In 2026, the **Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC,** "Geneva Federation for Development Cooperation") celebrates 60 years of collective engagement.

IRHA is proud to be part of this long standing network, contributing to shared learning and advocacy through collaborative platforms such as the **Plateforme Souveraineté Alimentaire** ("Food Sovereignty Platform"), where organizations come together to exchange knowledge, strengthen practices, and advance coordinated action. IRHA also committed to important behind-the-scenes work to help highlight and strengthen these synergies- efforts that often remain invisible, yet are essential to the strength and cohesion of such a network.

6.OUR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS



Ongoing Projects
Senegal, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Switzerland.

Under Development
Malawi, Madagascar, Uganda, India



Rainwater for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Where dignity begins with a drop

This program strengthens access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in underserved communities – particularly schools, health centers, and remote areas where centralized systems are absent or unreliable.

By transforming rooftops into reliable sources of water through decentralized rainwater harvesting, IRHA supports healthier living environments, restores dignity, and reduces the daily burden on women and girls who must walk long distances to fetch water.

Solutions are designed with respect to ecological balances combining infrastructure with awareness-raising among local actors to ensure better management of rainwater and promote safe practices such as Household Water Treatment (HWT) where needed.

Core methods include:

- Roof catchment systems
- First-flush filters and basic treatment units
- Ferrocement cisterns and storage tanks
- Community-based WASH training and promotion
- Household Water Treatment (HWT) for safe domestic use

Project : Blue Schools Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, many rural schools lack reliable access to safe drinking water. Recurring droughts and floods, combined with groundwater depletion and pollution, are intensifying water stress and directly affecting students' health and school attendance.

In this context, rainwater harvesting offers a sustainable solution. The IRHA Blue School model improves access to water, sanitation, and hygiene while raising community awareness -transforming schools into hubs of resilience.

Key Achievements

- 4 schools equipped with 16 000L rainwater harvesting systems (benefiting 732 students and teachers)
- Management committee formed in each school
- 23 community awareness programs and training conducted
- 2 community-based organizations established and active
- 5 local masons trained on construction and system rehabilition
- Water quality monitored across 23 sources in 18 areas

These efforts strengthen sustainable water access and build community resilience to climate challenges.



Partner : Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum
Donor : Fédération Genevoise de Coopération(FGC)
Location: Kurunegala District, Sri Lanka

Blue Schools Beyond Sri Lanka

Pioneered by IRHA in 2007, the Blue School concept integrates rainwater harvesting, hygiene, and environmental education to improve access to safe water and support healthier learning environments.

Not only in Sri Lanka, IRHA Blue Schools are actively implemented in Nepal and Senegal, with new developments underway in Cambodia. These initiatives are adapted to diverse local contexts, improving water access, strengthening public health, and supporting education through practical, school based solutions.

This expansion has been made possible thanks to the continued support of trusted donors and partners.



BLUE SCHOOL SENEGAL



BLUE SCHOOL CAMBODIA





Rain-fed Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

Where water meets soil, harvests return.

This program supports the transition to sustainable, rain-fed agriculture in regions facing soil degradation, erratic rainfall, and food insecurity.

IRHA strengthens the resilience of farming communities by improving natural resource management capacities and promoting knowledge sharing among local actors, enabling them to nurture their soils, adapt to climate change, and reclaim food sovereignty.

Interventions are guided by agroecological principles and landscape level planning, combining nature based solutions, practical infrastructure, traditional practices, and field training, ensuring that rain becomes a driver of fertility, nutrition, and locally rooted solutions.

Core methods include:

- Rain-fed garden systems (e.g. half-moons or deep-bed designs)
- Terracing and bund construction for water retention
- Small scale water retention systems such as infiltration ponds and micro catchments
- Soil regeneration through mulching and composting
- Farmer training in agroecology, water-smart farming, and local seed systems

Project : Femmes de Terre et de Pluie | Women of Land and Rain

In Senegal's Fatick and Kaolack regions, rural women play a central role in agriculture and food security, yet remain constrained by persistent inequalities in access to land, water, and decision-making processes. These structural barriers, compounded by climate change and environmental degradation, continue to limit their economic autonomy and long-term resilience.

The **Femmes de Terre et de Pluie** project places gender equality at the core of its intervention by strengthening women's technical skills, leadership, and collective agency. Through targeted training in agroforestry, rainwater management, and agroecology, women's cooperatives are better equipped to restore degraded ecosystems, enhance agricultural productivity, and manage natural resources in a sustainable way.

Achievements

- 350 people reached through awareness activities
- 863 kg of agricultural produce sold during the rainy season
- 2 community awareness workshops conducted through participatory theatre
- 7 women's groups trained in agroforestry and rainwater management
- Ongoing ecosystem restoration led by women through soil and water conservation practices



Partner : ASGEP
Donors: Drittes Millennium Foundation, Temperatio Foundation, Canton of Basel Stadt
Location: Fatick & Kaolack regions, Senegal



Disaster Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration

Reinforcing land. Restoring balance.

This program addresses land degradation, erosion, and climate-induced risks such as flooding, landslides, and water scarcity. It focuses on restoring the ecological functions of landscapes while protecting communities from environmental hazards and strengthening their resilience to climate change.

By stabilizing slopes, restoring vegetation, and improving water retention, IRHA helps reduce disaster vulnerability while reviving soils and local biodiversity. Projects are designed with local participation and adapted to specific topographies – using principles of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

Core methods include:

- Soil and water bio-engineering techniques (e.g. vegetative bunds, gabions, terracing)
- Reforestation and slope stabilization with native species
- Rainwater retention ponds and infiltration systems
- Participatory planning for risk mapping and landscape design

Project : Rain Community Sri Lanka

Recurring droughts and floods in Sri Lanka are increasingly affecting water availability, agricultural productivity, and public health. In the Kurunegala District, these pressures weaken communities' ability to sustainably manage natural resources.

The project aims to strengthen resilience by restoring ecosystem functionality, improving water access, and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. Through an integrated landscape approach, it promotes the collective and sustainable management of water and natural resources by local stakeholders.

Expected Results

- 170 household and 30 public rainwater harvesting systems constructed
- 105 infiltration and groundwater recharge systems installed
- 60 sanitation facilities built
- 80 family agroecological production systems implemented
- 20 nurseries created for ecosystem restoration
- More than 20,000 community members reached

Disaster Risk Management and Ecoystem Restoration



Partner : Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum
Donor : Fédération Genevoise de Coopération(FGC)
Location: Kurunegala District, Sri Lanka

Project : Rain Community Cambodia

Increasing climate related disasters in Cambodia are intensifying water stress and affecting health, hygiene, and livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable communities. In Kampong Thom Province, these challenges are compounded by limited access to safe water and sustainable infrastructure.

The project aims to improve living conditions by strengthening access to drinking water through rainwater harvesting, while reinforcing local capacities and promoting sustainable water management practices among communities and authorities.

Expected Results

- 250 household and 27 public rainwater harvesting systems constructed
- 105 infiltration and groundwater recharge systems installed
- 200 sanitation facilities built and 3 drinking water networks developed
- Over 30 training sessions delivered to strengthen local capacities
- Local entrepreneurs supported to develop rainwater services
- More than 20,000 community members reached

Disaster Risk Management and Ecoystem Restoration



Partner : RainWater Cambodia
Donor: Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC)
Location: Sala Visai, Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia

Project : Rain Community Nepal

Partners : Kanchan Nepal, Li-Bird, SVSI
Donors: Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC), Services Industriels de Genève (SIG), Swisslos Aargau, Services Industriels de Terre Sainte et Environs (SITSE), Fondation Gertrude Hirzel
Location: Tobang, Pokhara, Nepal

The **Rain Community** project aims to enhance the resilience of Nepalese populations to the impacts of climate change by restoring ecosystem functionality, improving water availability, strengthening agricultural practices, and promoting the collective and sustainable management of natural resources at the catchment basin level by local stakeholders in the target region.

Beneficiaries

- 2,000 households across 10 rain-fed communities
- 75 households equipped with rainwater harvesting tanks
- 35 households equipped with greenhouses for market gardening
- 300 households benefiting from spring rehabilitation
- 4,500 households benefiting from the rehabilitation of retention ponds
- 7,500 households engaged in a reforestation campaign
- **100 local authorities members trained**



Project :

Transition to Agro-ecological Ecosystems

The Kaolack region, largely agricultural and economically vulnerable, is facing a fundamental shift in its production systems. This vulnerability — compounded by food insecurity and the intensifying effects of climate change — is driving the degradation of biodiversity, soils, and ecosystems. The project aims to support a transition from traditional rain-fed agriculture to resilient, sustainable farming practices that reinforce food sovereignty while protecting natural ecosystems. Key levers include soil restoration, water cycle management, and improved access to land.

Expected results

- 4 areas supported in market gardening, rice cultivation, tree planting, and beekeeping
- 50% of erosion-prone sites have been treated with anti-erosion systems
- 3 out of 6 rainwater retention areas rehabilitated to restore ecosystem functions
- Reforestation of a full School of Ecosystems as a living laboratory
- Completion of technical studies to strengthen infrastructure management, agroecological training and marketing
- Ongoing awareness campaigns promoting agroecological transition
- Implementation of environmental education initiatives benefiting students and community members

Disaster Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration



Beneficiaries

- 320 producers
- 1,500 households
- 6,280 community members
- 3,100 pupils and students
- 48 university students and teachers
- 255 municipal and technical staff,
- 48 support staff



Partner : Caritas Kaolack
Donors: Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC), Fondation SETEC
Location: Kaolack, Senegal



Rain in the City

Transparent Cities. Thriving Ecosystems.

Rainstorms, urban flooding, and the growing need for climate adaptation have made urban rainwater management a key challenge – and opportunity – for sustainable cities. Integrating rainwater into urban planning offers a nature-based solution (NbS) that supports biodiversity, reduces heat islands, and strengthens climate resilience.

Objective
Making the city 'transparent for water' – ensuring that urban environments are designed to allow water to infiltrate, circulate, and support life, rather than being treated as waste.

Core Principles

- Infiltrate rainwater by preserving or restoring the soil's natural infiltration capacity in and around urbanized areas
- Preserve vegetation cover by maintaining or enhancing green spaces and ensuring access to sufficient water for vegetation
- Combat runoff by allowing rainwater to infiltrate where it falls
- Disconnect rainwater from sewage systems and promote reuse where possible. Underground pipes should no longer be the default approach to rainwater management.


CHAQUE GOUTTE COMPTE
Sans pluie, pas de vie !
L'EAU DOUCE, UN BIEN RARE
L'EAU, ACTEUR ENGAGÉ, ENTRE PLAISIRS ET ACTIONS DE TERRAIN
APPRENDRE LA PLUIE
Laisse-toi guider et découvre comment chacun vit sa pluie !
VIS MA PLUIË
Et si chaque goutte avait une histoire à raconter ?
Dans un monde où l'eau douce se raréfie et où le climat se dérègle, la pluie reste une ressource essentielle, précieuse et trop souvent sous-estimée.
De la simple goutte tombée sur un toit à son rôle fondamental dans les écosystèmes, chaque pluie raconte une histoire, une utilité, un impact.
À travers cette exposition, découvrez comment
peut être récoltée, stockée, utilisée et valorisée
paysages et des écosystèmes.
De la Suisse aux pays du Sud global, des école
cultivées, et jusque dans nos villes, suivez le pa
pluie et de celles et ceux qui apprennent à vivre
Pssst ! Suis-moi et découvre comment
vit la pluie !
ANNA, 9 ANS
GITA, 10 ANS
AMADOU, 9 ANS


Profitez
temps
Profitez

Project : Pluië | Rain

Promouvoir la pluie de façon ludique et innovante | Promoting rain in a playful and innovative way

Launched in 2023 in Geneva, the PluiË project reimagines rain not as a constraint, but as a shared cultural and ecological asset.

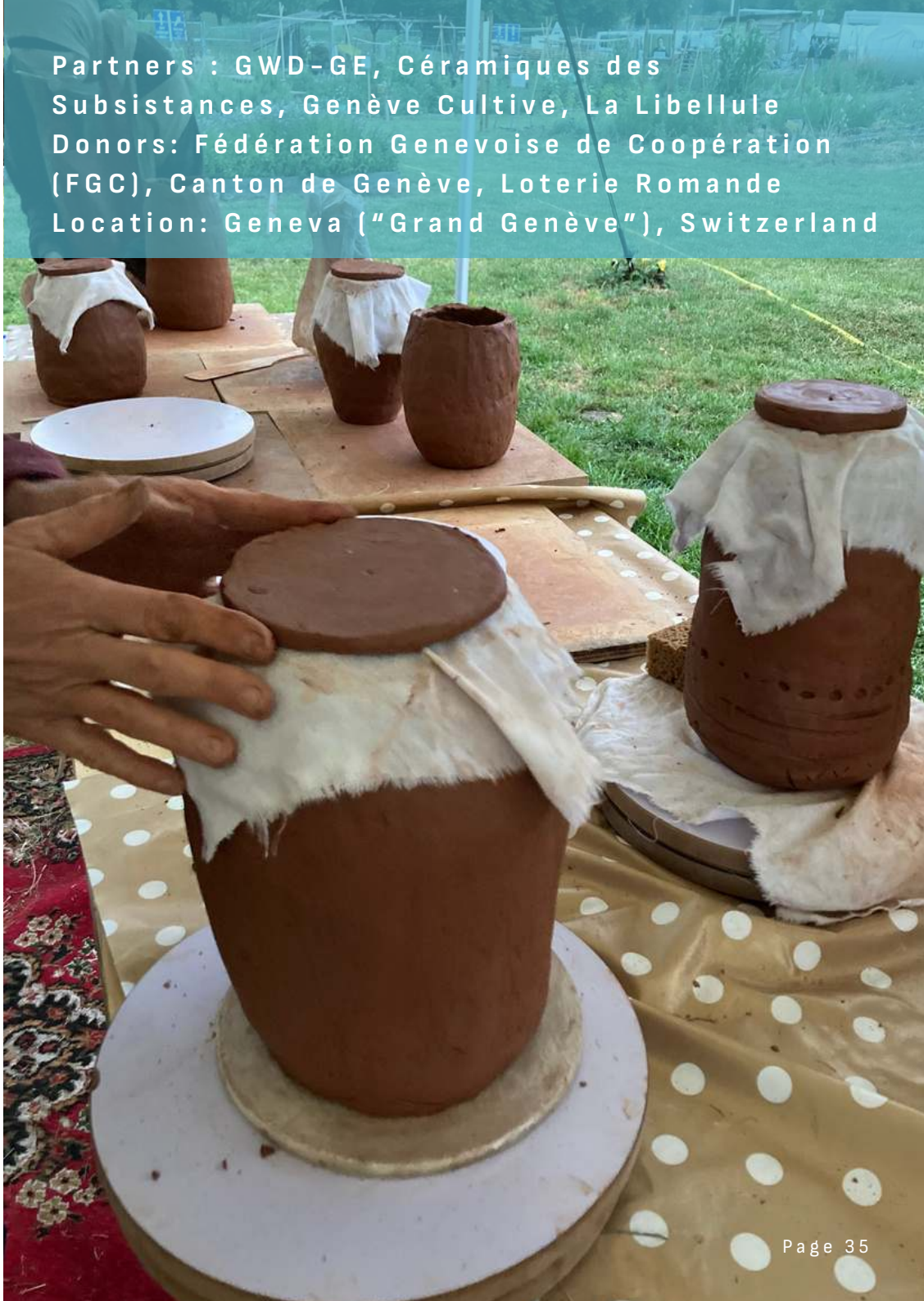
PluiË proposes a rich variety of cultural and rain-awareness activities – including rain strolls and sensory explorations, street-art rain tags, ceramic workshops, participatory rain dances, storytelling events, and exhibitions – all designed to reconnect children and adults with rainwater through pedagogy, imagination, emotion, and shared urban experiences.

At a time when urban spaces are becoming increasingly impermeable and disconnected from natural cycles, PluiË seeks to challenge perceptions and foster a renewed relationship with rainwater – one rooted in learning, playfulness, and co-creation.

Achievements

- 4 classroom interventions
- 4-month exhibition
- 15 porous jars collectively created
- 8 illustrated watercolor stories depicting rain in Senegal, Nepal, and Switzerland
- 1 municipal inauguration event

Partners : GWD-GE, Céramiques des Subsistances, Genève Cultive, La Libellule
Donors: Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC), Canton de Genève, Loterie Romande
Location: Geneva (“Grand Genève”), Switzerland



7.VOICES
FROM THE FIELD



"Before, we had to walk far to collect water every day. Now we have water at home. I have more time to study and help my family."
Sita Gurung,
Pokhara, Nepal



"With the new practices, the soil keeps water longer and our crops grow better. We harvest more. We also feel stronger working together as women."
Femmes de Terre et de Pluie,
Kaolack, Senegal

8.FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance
IRHA

Key Financial Highlights 2025

- **Total income:** CHF 747,249
- **Total expenses:** CHF 559,635
- **Project expenses:** CHF 426,045
- **Net result:** – CHF 1,325
- **Restricted funds:** CHF 453,392

In 2025, IRHA continued to expand its operational activities, with total income reaching CHF 747,249.

The majority of resources were allocated to project implementation, reflecting the organization's commitment to field impact. Total expenditure amounted to CHF 559,635, with a strong focus on programmatic activities. The financial year closed with a balanced result of –CHF 1,325, reflecting ongoing investments in new projects and organizational structuring.

Restricted funds increased significantly, supporting multi-year project implementation and reinforcing financial stability.

IRHA

Bilan

Tous les montants sont en CHF

	Au 31.12.2025	Au 31.12.2024
Actifs		
Actifs circulants	**491'983.51**	**166'534.53**
Liquidités et titres	**410'322.84**	**160'340.41**
Banque	410'318.20	160'335.77
Outstanding Payments - odoo STD	0.00	0.00
Paypal	4.64	4.64
Créances	**81'660.67**	**6'194.12**
Comptes courants des projets	71'660.67	848.87
Actifs de régularisation	10'000.00	5'345.25
Actifs immobilisés	**2'267.45**	**2'267.45**
Immobilisations financières	**2'267.45**	**2'267.45**
Garantie de loyer	2'267.45	2'267.45
Total des actifs	**494'250.96**	**168'801.98**
Passifs		
Fonds étrangers	**36'453.68**	**15'248.16**
Dettes résultant d'achats de biens et services	489.20	4'280.65
Dettes résultants des charges salariales	2'916.87	4'568.51
Comptes courants des projets	24'450.07	0.00
Passifs de régularisation	8'597.54	6'399.00
Fonds affectés	**453'392.26**	**147'823.97**
Projet GE2401	386.60	6'877.46
Projet GE2501	13'778.76	13'000.00
Projet GE2502	17'513.12	0.00
Projet KHM2501	53'404.25	0.00
Projet NEP2301	0.00	499.00
Projet NEP2305	161'110.07	81'817.28
Projet SEN2101	0.00	6'428.79
Projet SEN2103	12'179.79	39'201.44
Projet SEN2501	8'560.92	0.00
Projet SEN2502	133'696.85	0.00
Projet SLK2501	52'761.90	0.00
Fonds propres	**4'405.02**	**5'729.85**
Bénéfice reporté/perte reportée	5'729.85	5'412.63
Résultat de l'exercice	(1'324.83)	317.22
Total passifs	**494'250.96**	**168'801.98**

Compte de résultat

Tous les montants sont en CHF

	Exercice 2025	Budget 2025	Exercice 2024
Produits d'exploitation	**747'248.87**	**681'476.00**	**471'184.98**
Subventions FGC	**603'179.00**	**444'137.00**	**254'920.00**
Autres Subventions et dons	**114'240.90**	**96'928.00**	**138'084.72**
Subventions institutionnelles	22'228.90	91'700.00	54'538.00
Autres dons affectés	92'012.00	5'228.00	83'546.72
Autres produits d'exploitation	**29'828.97**	**140'411.00**	**78'180.26**
Dons non affectés	22'900.42	1'000.00	49'949.14
Autres revenus opérationnels	6'928.55	139'411.00	28'231.12
Charges	**(559'634.60)**	**(546'525.00)**	**(721'334.29)**
Charges directes des projets	**(426'044.92)**	**(434'849.00)**	**(672'443.28)**
Charges de projets terrain	(337'413.11)	(365'000.00)	(516'270.49)
Charges de personnel IRHA Genève	(60'692.00)	(69'849.00)	(112'161.39)
Charges administratives IRHA Genève	(27'939.81)	0.00	(44'011.40)
Autres charges d'exploitation	**(133'589.68)**	**(111'676.00)**	**(48'891.01)**
Charges de personnel	(160'504.92)	(150'564.00)	(133'705.66)
(+) Salaires projets	60'692.00	69'849.00	112'161.39
Prestations consultants	(4'624.00)	(4'500.00)	(2'162.00)
Loyer	(12'193.94)	(12'120.00)	(12'120.38)
Charges d'administration et d'informatique	(10'927.03)	(9'900.00)	(13'064.36)
Frais de participation financière FGC	(6'031.79)	(4'441.00)	0.00
Résultat d'exploitation	**187'614.27**	**134'951.00**	**(250'149.31)**
Résultat financier	(503.71)	(400.00)	(740.91)
Produits exceptionnels	87'778.54	0.00	0.00
Charges exceptionnelles	(87'212.72)	0.00	0.00
Résultat avant variation des fonds affectés	**187'676.38**	**134'551.00**	**(250'890.22)**
Utilisation des fonds affectés	426'044.92	434'849.00	672'443.28
Indémnités de gestion	102'373.77	0.00	0.00
Attribution aux fonds affectés	(717'419.90)	(541'065.00)	(421'235.84)
Résultat net	**(1'324.83)**	**28'335.00**	**317.22**

Income and Expenses 2024 – 2025



IRHA experienced significant growth in 2025, with increased income supporting expanded program activities and improved cost balance.

Monitoring, Technical Support and International Engagement

IRHA provides regular technical support and monitoring to its projects and partners. In line with its commitment to reducing environmental impact, most coordination activities are conducted online. Selected field visits and participation in strategic events nevertheless remain important to strengthen collaboration, support implementation, and contribute to knowledge sharing and policy dialogue.

Field Monitoring, Communication and Implementation Missions in 2025

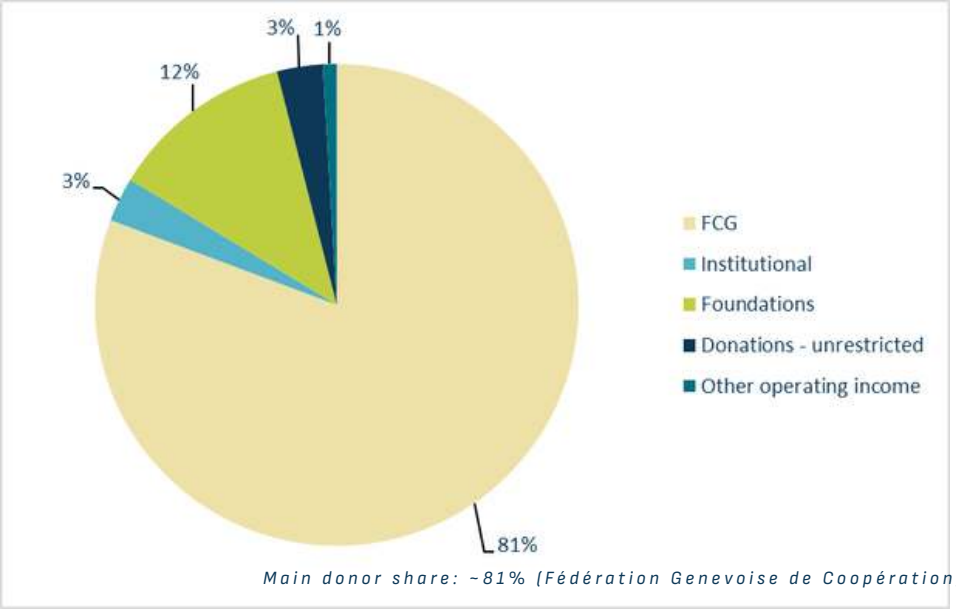
- ***Senegal***: *Monitoring visits to the "Transition to Agro-ecological Ecosystems" and "Women of Land and Rain" projects*
- ***Sri Lanka***: *Project launch and monitoring visits to the "Rain Community" project*
- ***Uganda:*** *Support to the "Caritas Kasese" rainwater harvesting programme" & communication content collection*
- ***Kenya*** *: Knowledge sharing activities with the "Clean Water, Healthy Village" Calabash training center & communication content collection*

International Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

- ***Pakistan***: *participation in the National Rainwater Harvesting Conference (USD 1,400) and support for the participation of an IRHA Alliance member representative from Malawi at the Lahore conference (USD 1,400)*
- ***Malawi***: *Support to the National Rainwater Harvesting Conference (USD 1,500)*

Several travel and participation related costs were covered through external or in kind contributions, helping limit operational costs for IRHA (total estimated value: approximately CHF 7,000).

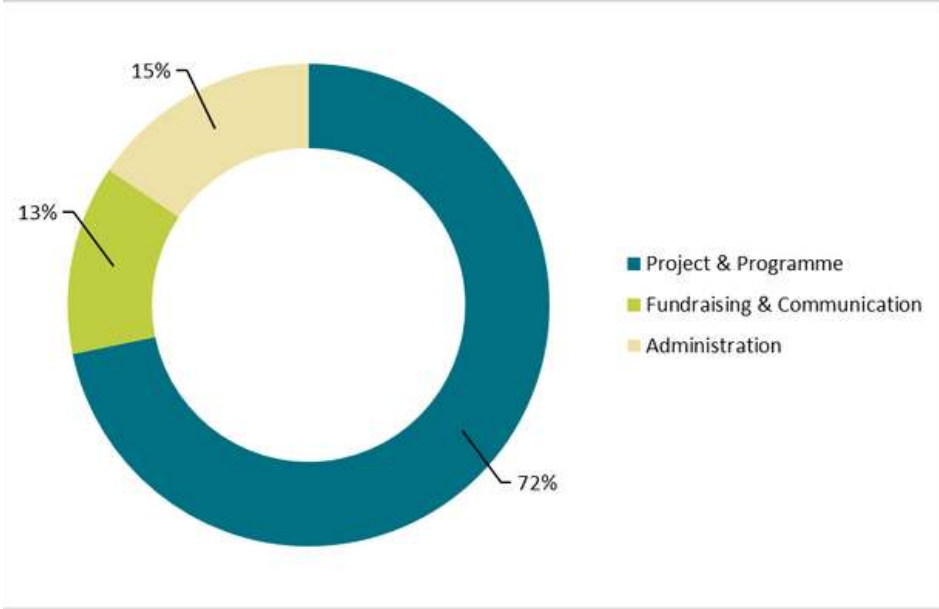
Source of Funding



Main donor share: ~81% (Fédération Genevoise de Coopération)

IRHA's funding structure is primarily supported by public contributions through the Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC), complemented by foundations, private donors, and institutional partners.

Use of Funds



IRHA allocates 72% of its total expenses to program activities.
Administrative and fundraising costs are managed in accordance with Swiss GAAP RPC 21 and established sector standards, ensuring transparency, accountability, and the effective use of resources.

Governance & Transparency

- Board members serve on a voluntary basis
- Director gross annual salary: CHF 39,600
- 150 days of volunteer work contributed (estimated value: CHF 94,629)

AGRÉÉ PAR: FEDERATION GENEVOISE DE COOPERATION

by FGC

Several IRHA projects are implemented within the framework of the FGC quality and funding mechanism, which supports initiatives based on principles of sustainability, partnership, local ownership, knowledge sharing, and rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

ZEWO Your donation in good hands.

Certified by ZEWO

IRHA holds the ZEWO quality label, an independent certification for non-profit organizations in Switzerland.
It confirms compliance with strict standards in governance, financial management, and the use of donations.

9.OUR ORGANIZATION

Committee



Han Heijnen
President



Clara Ariza
Secretary



Anne-Marie Khetib
Treasurer



Margarita Pacheco
Founding Member



Giulio Castelli
Member



Rachel Nisbet
Member



Salvano Briceno
Member



Darja Könnig
Member



Bob Boulware
Member

Secretariat



Marc Sylvestre
Director



Florian Bielser
Program Manager



Marion Dunand
Project Officer



Yasmina Beck
Head of
Communication
& Partnerships



Alain Vergeylen
Head of
Administration
& Finance

10. THANK YOU & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all those who make this journey possible:

- To the communities, whose strength, resilience, and everyday actions are the foundation of our work.
- To our local implementation partners, who turn ideas into reality on the ground.
- To the local authorities, who help build pathways toward lasting change.
- To our donors, for their trust and unwavering commitment.
- To our Rainwater Alliance members, for standing beside us in purpose and solidarity.
- And to everyone who contributes to this journey — by sharing knowledge, co-creating solutions, or simply believing in the power of rain — we are deeply grateful.

Photo Credits

Front cover : Woman of the Land — Agent of Agroecological Transition — Senegal © Khaleebi Prod
Inside front cover : Blue school students — Nepal © Kanchan Nepal
Page 2 : Community Working in a Tree Nursery — Senegal © Khaleebi Prod
Page 3 : Blue School Staff and Students in front of a Rainwater Tank — Sri Lanka © Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum (LRWHF)
Page 4 : Blue School Students using a Handwashing Station — Cambodia © RainWater Cambodia (RWC)
Page 5 : Women of the Land — Agents of Agroecological Transition — Senegal © Khaleebi Prod
Page 6 : Rainwater Pumpkin Cisterns in the Himalaya for Remote Communities — Nepal © Kanchan Nepal
Page 8 : IRHA Team in the Field — Senegal ©IRHA
Pages 9 : Water - Soil - Tree © Zoé Wooldridge for IRHA
Pages 10-11 : Women of the Land and Rain — Senegal © IRHA
Page 12 : UN SDGs Wheel © Zoé Wooldridge for IRHA
Page 14 : Half Moon Soil and Water Conservation Technique, Before & After — Senegal © Association Sénégalaise pour la Gestion de l'Eau de Pluie (ASGEP)
Page 15 : Water pond ("Boulis") — Senegal © IRHA
Page 16 : IRHA Alliance © Zoé Wooldridge for IRHA
Page 18 : Woman of the Land and Rain — Senegal © ASGEP
Page 21 : Blue School Moments — Sri Lanka © LRWHF
Page 22 : Mural : The Water Cycle — Senegal © Khaleebi Prod | Blue School Rainwater Tank — Cambodia © RWC
Page 23 : Blue school students — Nepal © Kanchan Nepal
Page 25 : Women of the Land and Rain — Senegal © IRHA
Page 27 : Community Engaged in Soil Restoration Activities — Sri Lanka © LRWHF
Page 28 : Community Painting and Decorating a Rainwater Tank — Cambodia © RWC
Pages 29 : Retention Pond ("Pokhari")— Nepal © Kanchan Nepal
Pages 30-31 : Agroforestry and Fields — Senegal © Khaleebi Prod
Page [illegible] : Pluië Exhibition and Rainwater Tags - Geneva, Switzerland @ IRHA
Page 35 : "Oyas" Clay Irrigation Pots Workshop - Geneva, Switzerland @ Céramiques des Subsistances for IRHA
Page 36 : Testimony — Nepal © Kanchan Nepal
Page 37 : Testimony — Senegal © ASGEP
Inside back cover : A Child, a Tree — Nepal © Kanchan Nepal

Glossary of Key Terms and Abbreviations

3D Participatory Mapping (3DPM): A community-based process that combines local knowledge with physical 3D models to map landscapes, allowing participants to visualize terrain, identify resources, and plan land use or development collaboratively.

Agroecology : A sustainable farming approach that applies ecological principles to agriculture, integrating biodiversity, local knowledge, and social equity to strengthen food systems and environmental resilience.

Agroforestry : A land use system that integrates trees and shrubs into crops and livestock farming to enhance productivity, biodiversity, and sustainability while restoring degraded ecosystems.

Bio-engineering : The use of living plants and natural materials to stabilize soils, control erosion, and restore degraded land, combining ecological processes with engineering techniques.

Bocage : A traditional landscape system characterized by small fields enclosed by hedgerows, trees, or earth banks, which protects soil, enhances biodiversity, and supports water retention in rural areas.

Cordons : Lines of vegetation, stones, or other materials placed along the contour of a slope to slow down water runoff, trap sediments, and reduce soil erosion in arid and semi-arid landscapes.

Deep-bed: A soil preparation technique that involves loosening and aerating the soil at greater depth to improve water infiltration, root development, and long-term soil fertility—especially in degraded or compacted lands.

Earth vegetative bunds : Small embankments made of soil, reinforced with vegetation (such as grasses or shrubs), built along the contour of a slope to slow water runoff, reduce erosion, and improve water infiltration.

Ecosystem Restoration : The process of assisting the recovery of degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems to restore their health, biodiversity, and ability to provide essential services for people and nature.

First-Flush Filters : Devices used in rainwater harvesting systems to divert and discard the initial runoff from rooftops or catchment areas, which often contains dirt, debris, and contaminants, before clean water is stored.

Edge rows : Lines of trees or shrubs planted along the borders of fields or terraces to reduce erosion, improve water retention, and create microclimates that support soil fertility and biodiversity.

Gabions : Wire mesh cages filled with stones, used to stabilize slopes, control erosion, and slow down water flow in land restoration and water management projects.

Half Moons : Crescent-shaped pits dug into the soil to capture rainwater and organic matter, slow runoff, and support the growth of trees or crops in arid and degraded lands.

Household Water Treatment (HWT): Techniques used at the household level to make water safe for drinking, including boiling, filtration, chlorination, solar disinfection, and safe storage—especially in decentralized or off-grid settings.

Infiltration Ponds : Shallow basins designed to collect and store rainwater, allowing it to gradually seep into the ground and recharge groundwater while reducing surface runoff and erosion.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) : A process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximize social and economic benefits without compromising ecosystems.

Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) : The collection, storage, and use of rainwater from surfaces like rooftops or land to improve water availability for agriculture, households, and ecosystem restoration.

Retention Ponds : Engineered basins that temporarily hold rainwater or surface runoff to prevent flooding, trap sediments, and control water flow. Unlike infiltration ponds, the water remains on the surface and is either released slowly or used for irrigation.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) : Actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems to address societal challenges—such as climate change, water security, or disaster risk—while benefiting biodiversity and human well-being.

Stone vegetative bunds : Structures made by arranging stones along contour lines and integrating vegetation to stabilize slopes, reduce soil erosion, and enhance moisture retention in degraded or sloping land.

Terracing : The construction of stepped, level surfaces on sloped land to reduce erosion, slow water runoff, and improve soil retention for agriculture and land restoration.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) : A public health framework that ensures access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene education to prevent disease and support human dignity, especially in vulnerable communities.

Watershed Management : A coordinated approach to managing land, water, and vegetation within a watershed to conserve resources, reduce erosion, and improve water quality and availability for people and ecosystems.

Water-Soil-Tree tryptich : An integrated approach that links rainwater management, soil conservation, and tree planting to restore ecosystems, improve water retention, and support sustainable land use. This triptych forms the core of nature-based solutions in dry and degraded areas.

Boulis, Calabash Cistern, Pokhari, Pumpkin Cistern, Zaï : Traditional rainwater harvesting techniques used in different regions—such as Senegal, Nepal, and the Sahel—to collect and store water for agriculture. While these terms are not used directly in this report, they reflect locally rooted practices adapted to specific soils, climates, and cultural contexts, and are an essential part of community-based water management knowledge.


विक्रम चेपड


RainForChange