



Rainwater Harvesting Implementation Network

Board

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Michiel de Wilde - Director of Aidenvironment, The Netherlands

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Robert Meerman
Peter Ton

Donors

DGIS
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Partnerships

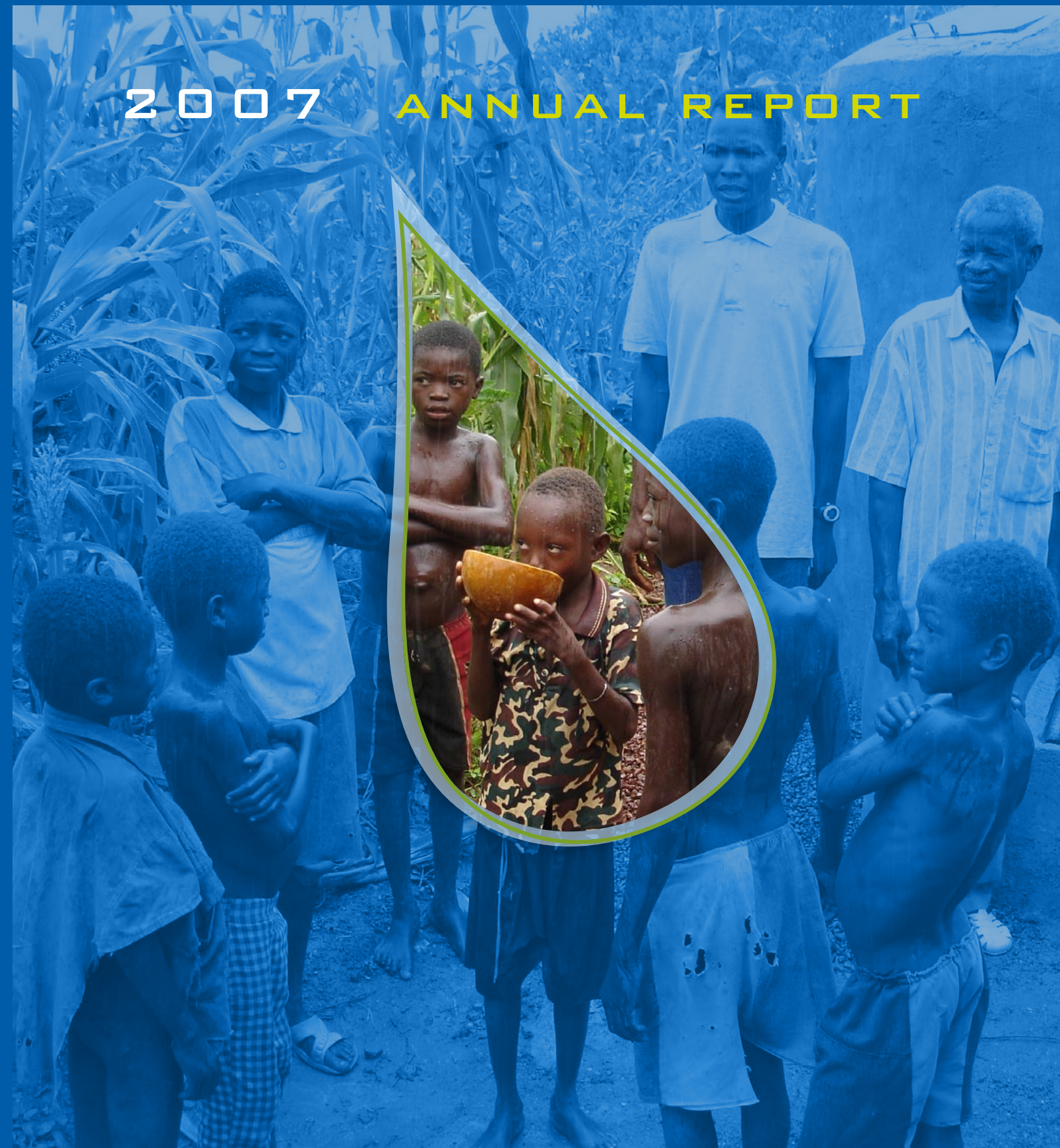
Rainwater partnership (UNEP,
IRSCA, IRHA, SEARNET)
CREPA HQ, SEARNET
Acacia Water
IRC Multiple Use group

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2007 ANNUAL REPORT



FOREWORD

In March 2007, together with my fellow board member Michiel de Wilde, I visited several implementation projects of Rain and its partners in Nepal. It was a wonderful trip and a most instructive experience. We had extensive talks with our Nepalese partners, talked to users of the water harvesting systems and met governmental officials. All in all, it brought home to us once again that what we are doing as a network is still highly relevant and much in demand.

The Board is pleased to note that RAIN made good progress in nearly every area in 2007. We have seen a steady growth in the number of systems constructed and the number of people reached. We continue with the strengthening and expansion of our network and the further growth and development of our capacity centres. Financially, 2007 was not easy; we had to match our limited income to meet our ambition for growth and development. To do this we set priorities and succeeded in maintaining a healthy balance between inputs and outputs. Last but not least, we worked hard to improve organisational learning and stepped up our technology research activities.

The Board met several times in 2007 and devoted particular attention to adjusting the management of our programme to RAIN's long-term plans and new strategy. We also brought more structure into our governance, introducing regular board meetings and a clearer division of the roles and responsibilities of the board and management.

RAIN still faces important challenges but it has shown it can play a valuable role in contributing to the goals of the sector. Together with our partners and our dedicated staff we will continue to play this role in the years to come.

Paul van Koppen, Chair of governing board

2007 OVERVIEW

2007 Has been a year of growth and new initiatives for the RAIN Foundation. In 2007 RAIN was able to substantially increase the number of rainwater harvesting projects and to create a solid base for up-scaled implementation. Rainwater harvesting has proven to be a viable alternative source of safe drinking water, especially in remote rural areas where no reliable sources exist.

The RAIN approach - participatory and focussing on local management and ownership – is working and in 2007 we reinforced this by organising workshops where people could share insights and experience. In addition, we embarked on the design of a comprehensive monitoring and learning system that will provide us with the necessary information needed to refine and further develop the programme and increase its outreach. RAIN is a growing organisation. At the close of 2007, the Board approved a new strategy to enable it to realise a number of ambitious goals by 2010, a strategy which will provide RAIN and its partners with clear guidance in the years to come.

Key results

In 2007 RAIN and its local "Rainwater Harvesting Capacity Centre" partners (RHCC) facilitated 16 local implementing organisations in Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Ethiopia and Nepal in the provision of water to more than 12,500 people. After the rainwater is caught, it is stored in above-ground or below-ground tanks and in sand dams. In 2007 the total storage capacity realised through RAIN projects amounted to 6,700 m³ and this will be expanded in 2008 to approximately 10,000 m³. In October, RAIN organised a successful first regional West Africa workshop in Burkina Faso together with the Burkina Faso capacity centre and support of the Gender Water Alliance (GWA). It was attended by representatives of all the RAIN programme partners from Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso, government representatives, research institutions and water quality

laboratories from Burkina Faso. Key objectives of the workshop were to share best practices, experience and expertise, analyse gender integration in the programme, collectively evaluate the above-ground rainwater harvesting storage systems implemented in West Africa in 2007, and to provide input for the 2008 planning. It was a great boost for the entire team to win the 2007 Swiss ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management. The award was granted to a RAIN project in the southern part of Ethiopia, involving the construction of 7 sand dams and 8 below-ground storage tanks, thereby providing 2,000 people with improved access to water.

External communication and outreach activities

Since 2007, RAIN has devoted considerable attention to external communication and outreach activities. In August RAIN organised a special session on rainwater harvesting at the annual World Water Week in Stockholm together with other members of the Rainwater Partnership. The lively session, chaired by the Honourable Minister Maria Mutagamba from Uganda, emphasised the value of rainwater harvesting as a valuable water supply option to meet the Millennium Development Goals and for water security in the face of climate change.

RAIN is an active member of the Netherlands Water Partnership NGO platform that unites Dutch NGOs active in the water and sanitation sector. Furthermore, RAIN attended the International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association conference in Sydney, aimed at promoting and advancing rainwater harvesting technology with respect to planning, development, management, technology and education worldwide. RAIN met with WaterAid in London to explore the expansion of our partnership.

in the course of the year, RAIN sent 3 newsletters to all its relations, informing them about new projects, special

RAIN activities, and the latest developments in rainwater harvesting. In autumn, RAIN embarked on the task of restyling the RAIN website and integrating an online database, designed to enable partners to share information and experience and demonstrate their projects online. It also allows visitors of the website, for example donors, to follow sponsored projects online.

Knowledge development

The key to RAIN's success is its insistence on establishing and promoting interactive learning processes that enable implementing organisations and capacity centres to share knowledge and experience. With the rapid growth of the RAIN network, the need to structure and manage this learning and information exchange has likewise grown. In 2007 RAIN instigated a so-called Performance Monitoring and Learning System (PMLS) that supports programmes in terms of monitoring of performance, and permit effective learning for continuous improvement. It also enables RAIN and its partners to measure the results and the long-term impacts of the projects.

The year 2007 also marked the start of an appropriate technology Research & Development programme, focusing on cost reduction, alternative technologies, water quantity and quality. In 2008 and subsequent years, this programme will be further expanded.

Organisation

Visible evidence of the progress RAIN has made is the considerable growth of its network, which now includes partners, implementing organisations and capacity centres. And it is still growing. To facilitate cooperation and to ensure continuity of resources such as funding and project support, the management unit in Amsterdam has been expanded to include five members of staff. RAIN's Board is made up of Paul van Koppen (Director of Kopconsult and formerly Director of IRC) and Michiel de Wilde (Director of Aidenvironment).

The International Advisory Board met in April last year in Amsterdam. The Board is currently reviewing the composition of the Advisory Board.

Outlook

RAIN continues to be guided by its focus on the implementation of rainwater harvesting as a source of water for the most vulnerable people. The year 2007 has shown RAIN that together with its partner organisations it can implement an increasing number of projects and reach still more people. In West Africa, RAIN will continue its operations in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal with 18 implementing partners. In Ethiopia, 2 projects are scheduled for completion in 2008 and in Nepal 2 projects are due to start, both in cooperation with PLAN Nederland. Extra effort will be made to further increase the effectiveness of the RAIN programme and strengthen the organisational network. As for the self-sustainability of the capacity centres, RAIN will also devote particular attention to fundraising capacity at the local level and to creating improved awareness.

It is our firm belief that RAIN, with its current focus on implementation combined with capacity building of network and implementation partners, is making a valuable difference. We look forward to continuing and improving our activities in the coming years.

Kirsten Neke
Programme Manager

Ard Schoemaker
Operational Manager



PROJECTS

Ethiopia

Sand Dams and Surface Runoff Systems in the Borana Zone

The Borana Zone is a semi-arid region in Southern Ethiopia that suffers frequent and prolonged droughts. The people in the Borana Zone depend largely on open water sources with unreliable water quality and availability. Diseases related to inadequate and unsafe water supply and sanitation are very common in Ethiopia. Diarrhoea, the most prevalent water-related disease, accounts for the death of 250,000 children each year and 46% of the under-five child mortality rate. During the last decade numerous wells and boreholes have been installed to improve the access to drinking water. However, in large areas of the Borana Zone groundwater levels have dropped due to overexploitation and resulted in boreholes and wells running dry.

In 2007, the Ethiopian Rainwater Harvesting Association (ERHA), RAIN's capacity centre in Ethiopia, facilitated the construction of 2 rainwater harvesting projects in the Borana Zone together with its implementing partner Action for Development. The first project entailed constructing 10 partially below-ground storage tanks (60 m³ each) with surface runoff catchments targeted to reach approximately 1,500 people. This project was completed early in 2008 and is currently being evaluated. The second project involved the construction of 7 sand dams in combination with 8 surface runoff storage tanks. It will improve access to safe drinking water and to water for productive purposes for at least 2,000 people. The project will be continued in 2008. Both projects have improved the availability of water considerably. They provide sufficient clean drinking water for approximately 1,000 people to bridge the two

dry periods per year. Furthermore, local capacity is developed and strengthened and water management committees are established.

Burkina Faso, Senegal and Mali RAIN's West-Africa Programme

Research carried out by various UN-organisations indicates that the Sahel countries will not meet the water-related Millennium Goals, let alone provide the most vulnerable groups with safe drinking water, if no extra investments are made. Over the last decennia the level of the groundwater in these three countries has dropped due to desertification and overexploitation, making inexpensive groundwater extraction impossible. Especially in rural parts, water sources are situated at a great distance from the houses and villages. People have to invest huge amounts of time and effort in fetching water, reducing the time available for other (economic) activities.

Rainwater harvesting offers a realistic solution for the water shortages. The periodical rainfall of 500 millimetres a year offers an opportunity to complete the existing water supplies. However, this opportunity is not fully exploited, due to lack of capacity, knowledge and to limited awareness. Within 5 years RAIN aims to provide 30,000 people with water in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. In 2007, water was made available to more than 5,500 people, with over 3,000 m³ rainwater stored in ferro-cement tanks at both household and communal level. This was the joint achievement of 15 partner organisations, which implemented the storage systems and strengthened users' capacities for sustainable operation and management. The implementing



In 2007 funds were raised to support new rainwater harvesting activities in 2008. This included a 2-year project with Simavi, Plan Netherlands and Nepali implementing partners, to integrate rainwater harvested drinking water in biogas/food production and in the improvement of hygiene and sanitation. BSP-Nepal will bring project partners together, facilitate joint planning, report outcomes and lobby for rainwater harvesting as a realistic water supply option.



organisations were trained, supported and monitored by the capacity centre 'Burkinabé'. An evaluation by the RAIN team in all three West-African countries indicated that the systems are of good quality and beneficiaries have been well trained in system management, operation, maintenance and repair. The RAIN West Africa programme is financed by the Dutch Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) and is currently co-financed by the French Fondation Ensemble.

Burkina Faso

The project in Burkina Faso, initiated in 2006, focused on capacity development of the partner organisations. In 2007 substantial progress was made; a storage capacity of 873 m³ was attained, three additional partnerships were established and a capacity centre was founded as a joint venture by WaterAid Burkina Faso and CREPA Burkina Faso. A solid base has been created for up-scaling rainwater harvesting technology and placing rainwater harvesting on the national agenda.

Mali

Co-financed by Fondation Ensemble, the Mali project instigated in 2007, resulted in a storage capacity of 1,136 m³. The first steps have been taken to identify a capacity centre in Mali. So far, the Burkina Faso capacity centre has fulfilled its task of strengthening the organisational and technical skills of the partner organisations by giving technical training and organising national and international knowledge exchange events. RAIN has contracted all six partner organisations again for 2008 to implement rainwater harvesting systems on a larger scale. Requests from other organisations to become part of the RAIN programme and to implement rainwater harvesting systems have been received and will be considered.

Senegal

In Senegal RAIN collaborated with five local implementing partners and together they realised a storage capacity of 1,000m³ in 2007. The Burkina Faso capacity centre carried out a mid-term evaluation in both Mali and Senegal, to monitor progress and further strengthen the technical capacities of the partner organisations. At the end of 2007 all partner organisations were invited to construct rainwater harvesting systems on a larger scale. As is the case for Mali, a capacity centre for Senegal has yet to be selected.

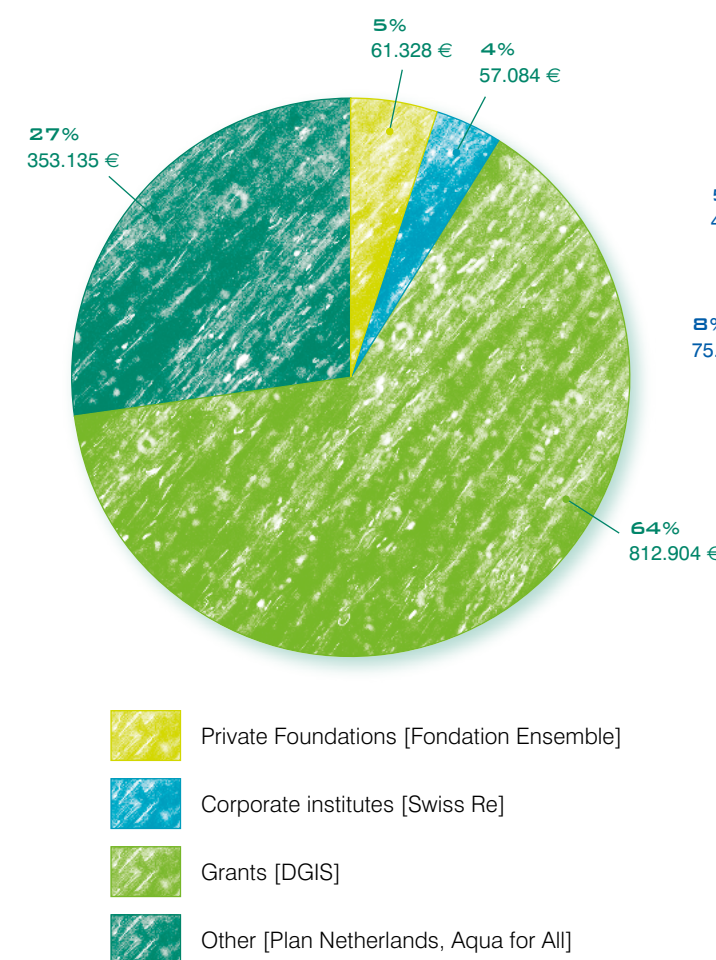
Nepal

Establishing a national Rainwater Harvesting Programme

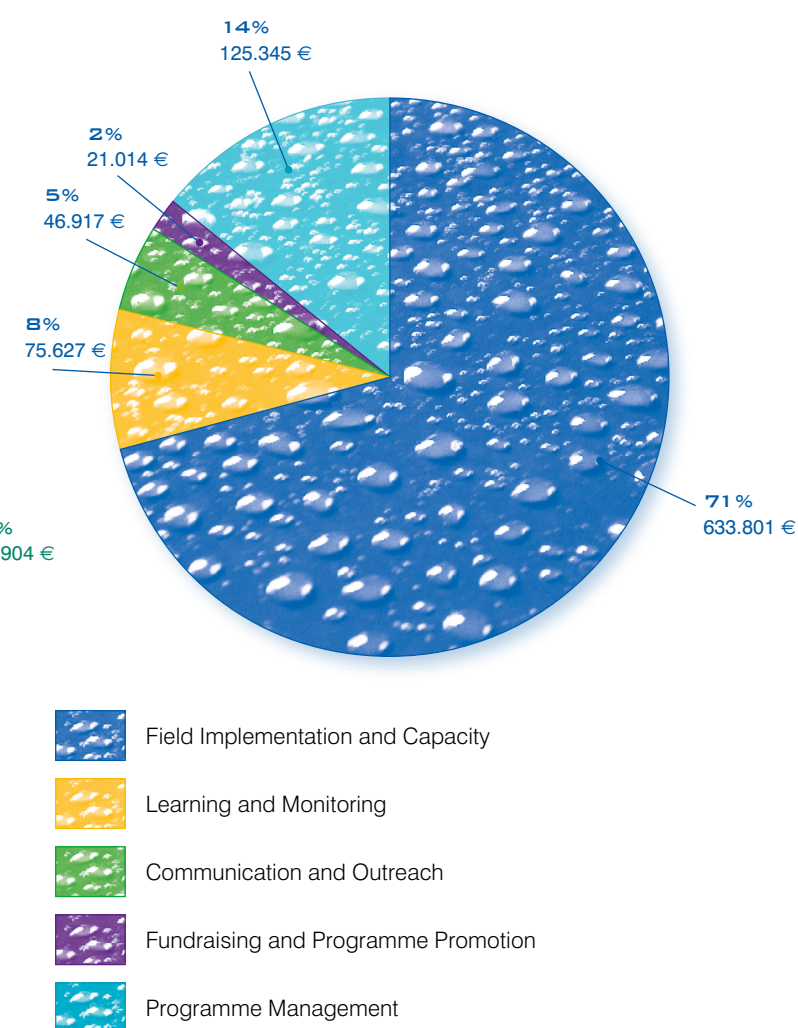
Nepal is rich in snow and water, yet access to safe drinking water is limited in many rural areas, despite constant efforts of governmental and non-governmental institutions. Nepal has the poorest drinking water coverage in South Asia. In 2007 RAIN focused primarily on preparing the ground for implementation of rainwater harvesting systems. BSP-Nepal, RAIN's capacity centre in Nepal, brought together partner organisations and other stakeholders to collectively define the scope of a national Nepal rainwater harvesting programme and the role of the capacity centre. BSP-Nepal joined the steering committee of the Government Policy Formulation Group. Rainwater harvesting has since commanded considerable attention in Nepal: in early 2007 the Minister of Physical Planning was quoted by the press as recommending rainwater harvesting as an important instrument in an alternative water supply strategy to the proposed Melamchii dam. ►

FINANCIAL

RAIN Income 2007 per type, totalling 1.280.591 Euro



RAIN Expenses 2007 in Euro, totalling 902.706 Euro



Remaining unspent budget from 2007 is being used in 2008