

2023 UN Water Conference
UN New York Headquarters
New York

Genève, 24 mars 2023

Dear Madam/Sir,

Submission of a written statement
Rainwater harvesting is essential to achieving SDG 6.1

On behalf of the Alliance, representing Rainwater Cambodia (RWC, Cambodia); Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum (LRHF, Sri Lanka); South Asia Rainwater Network (SARNET, Sri Lanka); Clean Water - Healthy Village (Netherlands); Rainwater Harvesting Association of Malawi (RHAM, Malawi); Rain for All (South Korea); American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCOSA, USA); Asociación Mexicana de Sistemas de Captación de Agua de Lluvia A.C. (AMSCALL, Mexico); Associação Brasileira de Captação e Manejo de Água de Chuva (ABCMAC, Brazil); Association senegalaise pour la gestion de pluie (Senegal); IRHA, the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance, would like to emphasize the importance of rainwater harvesting for drinking water and for other WASH related purposes in the household, in schools and health centres.

The UN 2023 Conference has so far not made much mention of rainwater as a source of water, that can be profitably used. That is an omission as hundreds of millions of people around the globe rely on rainwater as their only source of water. With storage, many more households, schools and health centres will be able to secure a good source of water. On the basis of 2017 JMP data, IRHA estimates that up to 6% of the world population, currently unserved, can benefit from rainwater as a source.

As an Alliance we have committed ourselves to continue to promote rainwater harvesting solutions to those so far left behind. Also, because we realize that without utilization of rainwater for domestic use, for schools and health centres as drinking water, for cooking and personal hygiene, esp. hand washing, the world will not be able to achieve SDG 6.1.

Therefore we urgently request recognition of the UN Water Conference and the Water Action Agenda of rainwater harvesting for left out households, for agriculture and watershed protection and restoration in these communities.

Rainwater harvesting is essential to achieving SDG 6.1 and governments and funding agencies are urged to provide financial and programming support for investment programmes such as the ASA-led million rainwater system programme in North-Eastern Brazil. Capacity to undertake this work is available in most countries through NGOs and the private sector, and there is no reason not to scale this solution up so that rainwater harvesting can effectively contribute to universal coverage and well-being of un(der)served households and communities.

Yours sincerely,



Han Heijnen
President