

Rainwater Harvesting Promotion Programme



Ministry of Physical Planning & Works
Dept. of Urban Dev. & Building Construction



UN-HABITAT

WaterAid

NGO Forum for
Urban Water & Sanitation

Water is Life
Sanitation is Dignity

RAINWATER HARVESTING

Water is one among the prime elements that sustains life on Earth. Nature provides life with water for FREE, like sunshine, right there where it falls from the sky! We call this free gift of nature – RAINWATER. Collecting this nature's gift for later use is what Rainwater Harvesting is all about.

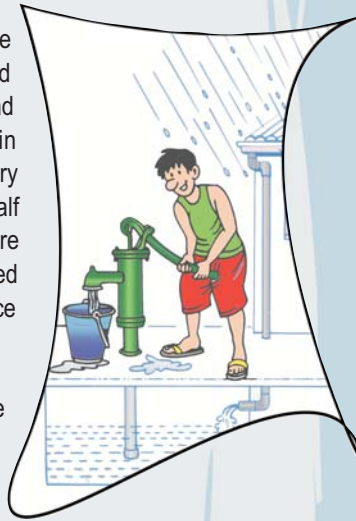


WHY RAINWATER HARVESTING?

The Scarcity / Free Factor

Just about half a century ago, water was fairly in abundance and taken for granted. However, rapid population growth combined with industrialization, urbanization, agricultural intensification and water-intensive lifestyle changed all that. For example, in Kathmandu the water supply utility provides 90 MLD in the dry season and 110 MLD in the wet season. This is less than half the average daily demand during the dry season. And there are no signs for any significant increase in amount of water supplied in near future. Adequate water supply has thus become a scarce and often expensive resource.

When water was in abundance, we let rainwater flow down the drain. But now as water scarcity problem is growing, rainwater harvesting has come up as one of the most viable option to offset this problem.



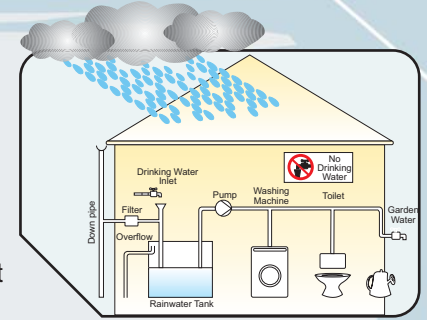
The Quality Factor

Rainwater, if properly collected, stored, filtered and managed can be used for all purposes throughout the year. Rainwater contains almost no dissolved minerals and is free from contaminants until it falls on the surface. To reduce the risk of contamination of collected water, appropriate system should be designed to divert the initial rainwater collected from roof tops and passing only clean water to the collection tank. However it is always a wise decision to disinfect collected water before consumption.



The Self-sufficiency Factor

Rainwater harvesting at the household level can be considered as decentralized resource collection. Depending upon location, catchments and storage space, rainwater can fulfill 100 percent and more of the annual water need of a household without wasting time and energy to fetch it.



Rain Water Harvesting Promotion Programme in Nepal

While Kathmandu awaits to realize its ever retreating deadline for Water Reforms and the mega Melamchi Project, its inhabitants increasingly suffer acute shortage of water supply - not just at the taps but also at traditional stone spouts, wells, ponds, springs etc. NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation (NGOFUWS) in support of UN-HABITAT seeks to mitigate the present water crisis of the Kathmandu Valley by initiating this Rain Water Harvesting Promotion Programme (RWH PP) at the household, community and municipality levels. As a long-term impact of this programme, extended to remote and rural hinterlands, we vision Nepal as a country that sustains on free rainwater for the bulk of its water needs.

A WHOLESOME APPROACH

RWH PP is conceived with a multi-pronged strategic approach with maximum spread effect. The basic features of the programme are:

1. Policy advocacy and implementation to create a favourable policy environment that mandates and promotes rainwater harvesting in all new built structures.
2. Tailor-made RWH training programs for all the target groups at various levels.
3. Preparation and distribution of Rainwater Harvesting Standard Manual and Guidebook.
4. Installation of rainwater harvesting components at popular historical/public structures to serve as demonstration sites.
5. Promotion of the private sectors for easy accessibility of RWH components and materials at competitive price.
6. Production and distribution of promotional items for mass communication and advocacy.
7. Counselling the prospective clients on RWH and help to generate employment opportunities.



PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

RWH PP is a joint effort of NGOFUWS, His Majesty's Government-Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Water for Asian Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT and Water Aid Nepal.

NGOFUWS is itself an umbrella organization of NGOs bound together with a common mission to help ensure that the water supply and sanitation services in urban centres are improved in a manner that ensures equity of access, especially among the poor; long-term performance and sustainability of water utilities; and enhanced environment in urban areas. LUMANTI Support Group for Shelter, Center for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD), Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), Forum for Protection of Public Interest (PRO PUBLIC), Mountain Resources Management Group (MRMG), Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) and Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF) are executive board members of NGOFUWS.

RWH PP coordinates its activities drawing on the experience and expertise of its member organizations and in close cooperation with all related authorities, institutions of HMG, the municipalities, other civil society and professional organizations, educational institutions, traders, financing institutions and the general public.

Secretariat

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