

**STRENGTHENING REGIONAL NETWORKING MECHANISMS:
PROMOTING ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES FOR FOOD SECURITY IN GHA**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Greater Horn of Africa Rainwater Partnership (GHARP) was established in January 2001 by the four national rainwater associations in the region namely: Ethiopia Rainwater Harvesting Association (ERHA), Kenya Rainwater Association (KRA), Rainwater Harvesting Association of Tanzania (RHAT) and Uganda Rainwater Association (URWA). The vision of GHARP is that all people in Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) have sustainable quality livelihood whilst the mission is to facilitate the promotion of appropriate approaches and technologies in rainwater harvesting (RWH) in the GHA through institutional strengthening of national rainwater associations, awareness creation and advocacy, networking and information sharing, research and technology development. The GHARP Secretariat is hosted by KRA in Nairobi, Kenya.

From January 2001 to July 2003, GHARP implemented a regional project funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Institutional Strengthening and Grant Management (ISGM) program administered by PACT/MWENGO with a budget of US\$ 250,000. The overall objective of the project was to establish and strengthen a regional rainwater network to coordinate the identification and evaluation of RWH technologies with the aim of promoting best practices in rainwater management to enhance food security and water availability in the GHA. The specific objectives were to:

- Establish an activity-oriented regional network (GHARP);
- Strengthen collaborating national rainwater associations (ERHA, KRA, RHAT and URWA) to be able to carry out their mandate efficiently and effectively;
- Identify and document different RWH systems in selected areas of the region (i.e. case studies);
- Evaluate the performance of promising RWH systems under prevailing technical, socio-economic, cultural and gender perspective;
- Identify and promote promising RWH technologies to enhance food security and water availability;
- Exchange and share information and experiences among stakeholders in the region.

To achieve the objectives, the following activities were carried out:

- A two day project initiation workshop to discuss project implementation process, develop Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), launch GHARP, establish GHARP Governing Council, develop GHARP strategic plan, update participants on participatory evaluation methods and formulate the guidelines for country collaborators;
- Strengthening GHARP and its members to promote networking and appropriate RWH technology in the region;

- Identifying case studies and country collaborators;
- Commissioning of the case studies (signing of agreement and first payment);
- Project monitoring activities to ensure adherence to the Terms of Reference (ToR);
- Preparation, compilation and submission of case study reports;
- Review of draft case study reports by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC);
- Revision of the case study reports (incorporating comments from the PAC);
- Synthesizing the case studies and development of two overview papers;
- Production and distribution of GHARP Newsletter, *MVUA*;
- Preparation of the 3 day regional workshop to discuss case study results, share and exchange experiences and disseminate of the project findings;
- Construction and uploading of a GHARP website for disseminating information;
- Presentation of case studies at a 3 day Regional Workshop and formulation of recommendations and follow-up activities;
- Compiling, editing and distribution of the workshop proceedings to stakeholders; and,
- Publication and distribution of a book on promising RWH technologies for food security in GHA.

A summary of the project objectives, activities and results are presented in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of project objectives, activities and results.

Objectives	Activities	Results
To establish an activity-oriented Greater Horn of Africa Rainwater Partnership (GHARP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing of GHARP governing council • Strategic planning workshop • Establishment of GHARP secretariat • Establishment of memorandum of understanding between collaborating countries. 	Enhanced RWH networking in the GHA amongst member organizations and other stakeholders
To strengthen collaborating country rainwater associations (ERHA, KRA, RHAT and URWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of staff and acquisition of equipment and facilities • Capacity building on management, information systems, governance and sustainability 	Institutionally strengthened collaborating country rainwater associations
To identify and document different RWH systems in selected areas of the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering baseline information • Identifying case studies and country collaborators 	Identified RWH systems in the GHA region
To evaluate the performance of promising RWH systems under prevailing technical, socio-economic, cultural and gender perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning of case studies • Development of terms of reference and case study proposals • Documentation of RWH experiences 	RWH technologies and systems evaluated
To identify and promote best practices for RWH to enhance food security and water availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis of case studies for various audiences • Stakeholders workshop • Publish a handbook on best practices 	Best RWH practices identified
To exchange and share information and experiences among stakeholders in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders workshop meetings and other forums • Development of GHARP newsletter and website 	RWH information disseminated

The project had two main components vis-à-vis; institutional strengthening and case studies implementation. Under institutional strengthening, GHARP and member associations Secretariats' personnel and the Governing Council were trained in various aspects of organizational governance and management, which included governing bodies and leadership, resource mobilization, financial and grant management, strategic planning, networking and communication, proposal writing, and participatory project development and management. ISGM also mentored GHARP and its members in the development of strategic plan, installation of local area network, report writing, accounting and computing. Moreover, through the ISGM sponsored workshops and seminars, members of GHARP were exposed to other related organizations that enabled them to share experiences and strengthen networking and collaboration. This enabled GHARP and its members to learn from other stakeholders involved in addressing food security and conflict management in the GHA region.

The project evaluated the experiences of RWH technologies by conducting the six case studies; three in Kenya (Laikipia, Machakos and Kitui), and one each in Ethiopia (Kobo Woreda) Tanzania (Dodoma) and Uganda (Mbarara and Rakai). The aim of the case studies was to identify and analyze the technical, socio-cultural, gender, economic and agronomic factors that affect promotion, adoption and adaptation of promising technologies. The participatory evaluation adopted during the case studies determined important parameters that enhance the adoption and sustainability of RWH systems. The project, through the results from case studies, recommended a set of promising RWH technologies and conditions under which they operate.

To enhance the dissemination of the project results, a book entitled "*Rainwater harvesting for improved food security: Promising technologies in the Greater Horn of Africa*" was published and distributed to various stakeholders in the region. Follow-up activities were also developed mainly focusing on promotion and dissemination of promising RWH technologies, especially for alleviating poverty and improving food security in the region. Three regional project proposals which focus on different dissemination strategies of promising RWH technologies have been developed and submitted to different development partners for financial support. The proposals also reflect the recommendations by various stakeholders especially GHARP members and the priorities in their countries. We hope the follow-up activities will be supported to consolidate the achievements of the just concluded project.

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