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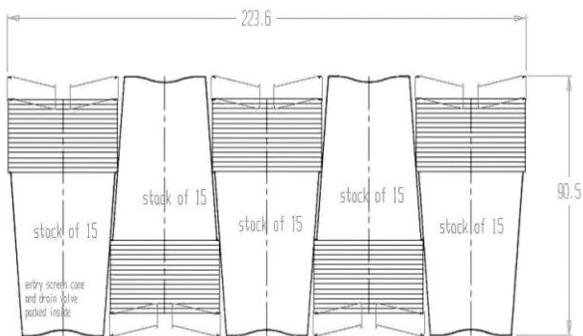
THE SWI RAINWATER COLLECTION PROJECT

Rainwater for the poor

With all of its abundance and promise, rainwater can be difficult and costly to collect and store in the poor rural and peri-urban communities of the world. In Africa and other subsistence farming regions, safe drinking water from any source is problematic during the labor-intensive rainy season. Families work in the field much of the day and paths to low-lying water ponds and shallow wells are slippery and even flooded. In peri-urban slums, families purchase water of uncertain quality by the bucket. For all of these families a convenient source of rainwater can bring both health and economic benefits. The dilemma is the absence of a low-cost, sustainable rainwater collection and storage system that works with simple huts, thatched roofs, or the hodge-podge of dwellings in urban and peri-urban slums.



Collection. Safe Water International (SWI) has worked on solutions for several years. A team led by design engineer, Roly Hunt, considered several options until his death earlier this year. Other team members took their newest design to Guatemala for testing and small-scale production. It is a durable fabric panel with built-in gutter system. The panel shows promise for any form of roof -- thatched, wood, tin, tile or fabric.



STORAGE. Long-term rainwater storage for poor families presents many challenges. Manufactured storage tanks are unaffordable and poor families often resort to buckets or hand-dug ponds. SWI is seeking manufacture of a stackable, 1100 liter tank that can be produced in sufficient volume to be affordable to poor families.

Absent affordable rainwater storage, the SWI rainwater panels can be utilized for daily rainwater collection at almost any rural or peri-urban dwelling. Depending on availability of potable quality fabric and local labor costs, the panels can be produced with a simple sewing machine for between \$8 to \$15 USD per panel,. SWI is pleased to share further information about the collection panels by email at safewateri@gmail.com.

