



# GENEVA GLOBAL PRESS RELEASE

## **Geneva Global Commemorates World Water Day**

***Clients have provided water and sanitation for nearly 300,000 people in the past three years***

March 22, 2007 – World Water Day.

March 22, World Water Day, is a day to reflect on the difficulties that nearly half the world confront every day to access clean water and proper sanitation. More importantly, it is also a day to celebrate success and to recommit to effective action to improve access to clean water. According to the World Health Organization, 2.6 billion people live without proper sanitation facilities. While it remains impolite to discuss toilets, the lack of them in many communities results in at least 1 million children dying each year. Together, unclean water and poor sanitation are the world's second biggest killers of children.

Geneva Global and its clients have had extraordinary success changing lives by providing access to water and sanitation. In the last three years alone, Geneva Global clients have spent \$1.8 million providing water and sanitation to nearly 300,000 people in the world's hardest places. These projects, run by exemplary community organizations, build wells, provide sanitary latrines and train community members in hygiene. On average, these projects have delivered Life Change at a cost of just \$6.11 per person. One example is a grass-roots organization in Togo. With a grant of \$27,000, the organization was able to build wells in five villages. These communities have now seen a 45 percent drop in parasitic waterborne diseases.

“Access to clean water and sanitation underpins all other development efforts,” says Louise Velle, Associate Health Sector Manager at Geneva Global. “Children can't go to school if they're sick from waterborne disease. Entrepreneurs running microenterprises can't succeed if they're unable to work. That's why water and sanitation projects can dramatically increase the return on other development investments.”

Geneva Global recommends water and sanitation projects that pair hygiene education with access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Projects also use appropriate, locally maintainable technology and involve the private sector and government to ensure ownership within the community.

In 2007, Geneva Global is working with clients in the development of more than \$2 million in projects that will help bring clean water and improved sanitation to communities in China, Rwanda and Zambia.