

Geneva Global Senior Sector Advisor Louise Makau Velle spoke briefly with Voice of America-Creole/Kreyòl reporter Fred Williams on March 5, 2008 about two Haitian Initiatives that are funded by Geneva Global clients:

- **North Haiti Environment and Economic Empowerment Initiative.**
Haiti's once-thriving forestry industry stripped about 96 percent of the country of its trees, and ongoing deforestation combined with poor farming methods result in widespread soil erosion – destroying roads and water supplies while deepening chronic malnutrition, poverty and disease. This multipronged Initiative will teach farmers environmentally sustainable practices such as planting fruit trees to provide food and crops for sale while conserving soil; support entrepreneurs with loans and skills training; and provide villagers with clean water, sanitation and hygiene education. Thousands of poor Haitians will benefit from improved nutrition, health and increased family income, while reforestation will rebuild North Haiti's fragile environment.
- **South Haiti Business Development Initiative.**
Limited access to credit, markets, training and production technology prevent female Haitian entrepreneurs – who account for an estimated 80 percent of the nation's economy – from lifting families and communities out of extreme poverty. This Initiative will help entrepreneurs develop business skills, identify marketable goods for production, gain access to microcredit and connect with domestic and international buyers. Sustainable increases in family income will benefit thousands of poor rural Haitians.

This is a transcription of the interview, which was conducted in French:

Fred Williams, Voice of America: The American philanthropic organization Geneva Global, which has developed environmental and economic development projects in several places around the world, establishes work and programs with tree planters with farming backgrounds in rural communities, including in our country of Haiti, for a better management of resources. This afternoon, Ms. Louise Makau, health expert at Geneva Global, will start off by sharing with us a bit on the mission of Geneva Global.

Louise Makau Velle, Geneva Global Senior Sector Advisor: Well, Geneva Global is a company that provides philanthropic services to donors and clients, who come to us, who would like to invest in development programs in developing countries. We have been in existence for nine years now. We are based in Philadelphia, and have regional offices in East and West Africa, Southern Africa, India and in the Caribbean [and Latin America], in the country of Ecuador.

Williams: May I ask you Ms. Makau, to explain to us what work Geneva Global has accomplished in Haiti.

Makau: We did a bit of work two years ago in Haiti, and have now returned there to continue with it.

Williams: Which regions precisely are you working in, in Haiti?

Makau: At this time, we are working in the northern district, in the Limbe Valley, as well as in the southeast, in the region of Jacmel.

Williams: Ms. Makau, can you clarify for us the programs that Geneva Global is undertaking in the northern and southeastern districts of Haiti?

Makau: As for our mission in the northern district in Haiti, we are working with organizations to improve the environment and ecology, and we also have initiatives for improving health, water and sanitation in this valley. We will work with four organizations there: the School of Agronomy at Université Chrétien du Nord, the Fondasyon Kole Zepol, FONKOZE, and an environmental organization called Floresta, as well as a clinic named Eben-Ezer for health, water and sanitation. Then, in the southeast, we will work with an organization called Femmes En Démocracie, which trains women engaged in microenterprise. They train them, and give them microcredit for their businesses.

Williams: Ms. Louise Makau, specialist in programs of health at an organization called Geneva Global, online with us in the country of Haiti, launching at our side, environmental and economic development programs in our northern district, as well as the southeast.

About Geneva Global

Geneva Global Inc. is a philanthropic advisory firm headquartered in suburban Philadelphia, Pa. Founded in 1999, Geneva Global provides independent research, advice and grant management to philanthropic investors. Through advisory services and research teams around the world, we assist clients in cutting through the complexities of international giving to connect the best community-owned solutions to humanitarian needs. We provide world-class philanthropic advisory services, helping each client make effective and exciting investments for lasting change in the world's hardest places. We have managed more than \$60 million in philanthropic investments, placing clients' funds into more than 1,400 projects in 110 developing nations and bringing measurable Life Change to more than 5.8 million people.

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