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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Government Expands Partnership with WaterCan to bring Clean Water and Sanitation to 40,000 People in eastern Africa

OTTAWA, ON – Leading Canadian water charity, WaterCan, is pleased to announce its renewed and expanded partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The three year program, valued at 2.11 million dollars, will support community-based integrated water supply, sanitation and hygiene education programming to benefit more than 40,000 people living in rural and urban areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Additionally it will strengthen the capacity of WaterCan's African partner organizations to plan and carry out high quality water and sanitation programming.

With lack of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation being the world's single largest cause of sickness, provision of such basic infrastructure has numerous proven development benefits. These include dramatic improvements in general health, education, gender equality, child mortality and economic growth.

"Every dollar invested by CIDA in providing clean water and sanitation to the world's most vulnerable people through WaterCan will, according to UN and WHO estimates, garner a nine fold economic return. This is effective aid at its best: saving lives, fostering growth and bang for your buck. It also meets the growing expectation of parliamentarians and the Canadian public that overseas development assistance generate concrete poverty fighting results," says Gary Pluim, WaterCan's Executive Director.

"Over the past two decades WaterCan's valued partnership with CIDA has permitted us to take concrete action to transform the lives of children, women and men in the most impoverished regions of the world. In the past two years alone we have, together with CIDA, reached over 25,000 people."

Worldwide, 890 million people—about one seventh of the world's population—remain without access to clean drinking water. Some 2.5 billion also lack access to basic sanitation.



WaterCan is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to providing clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. Since its creation in 1987, WaterCan has assisted more than one million people in 32 developing countries. WaterCan currently supports projects in Africa and works with local partners to implement water and sanitation solutions that are low-cost, long-term, and meet the unique needs of each community. For more information, please visit www.watercan.com.

Additional Resources:

- WHO & UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (MDG Assessment Report 2008) – http://www.wssinfo.org/en/40_MDG2008.html
- WaterCan's Case for Support (2008) – http://watercan.com/PDF/Case%20for%20Support_Final_english_2009.pdf

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