

WORLD WATER DAY

# Doing your 30-second bit to help

## Ottawa charity

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CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

OTTAWA – An all-expenses paid trip to African slums doesn't carry the glamour of a vacation to Paris, but for an online video contest being launched today, International World Water Day, it's sort of appropriate.

The Ottawa-based charity WaterCan, which is focused on helping some of the 1.1 billion people worldwide who have no access to clean water, wants Canadians to contribute 30- to 60-second videos that make a statement about the need for sanitation in the developing world.

WaterCan's program director George Yap said the contest winner will be taken on a week-long tour of some WaterCan projects in Africa.

"They will see the reality of working in slum areas, perhaps in (the Ugandan capital) Kampala or in a rural area of Uganda," he said. "It will underscore for them the point that development is messy and doesn't always go according to plan. It's not tourism but the winner will come back with a deeper understand-



EDUARDO MUNOZ REUTERS

Water and sanitation diseases claim the lives of 1.8 million children every year, according to the UN.

ing of African development."

The deadline for the video contest, which is open to anyone over 18 years old, is Oct. 19 and the winners will be announced Nov. 19, World Toilet Day.

For more information visit [www.watercan.com/videocontest/index.html](http://www.watercan.com/videocontest/index.html)

### In figures: The world's water crisis

- Each year, water and sanitation-related diseases such as diarrhea claim the lives of 1.8 million children.
- At any one time, half of the world's hospital beds are filled with patients suffering from water

- and sanitation-related diseases
- The global water and sanitation crisis claims significantly more lives than violent conflict does.

Figures obtained from the United Nations, the World Health Organization and UNICEF.