



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **ENTERPRISEWORKS/VITA and GUINNESS GHANA BREWERIES GROUP DONATE 2,000 WATER FILTERS TO FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN GHANA**

**Washington, DC-** EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWV) today announced a donation of 2,000 water filters to the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) of Ghana for distribution to flood victims in Northern Ghana, especially children and nursing mothers. Funding for the donation is supplied by the Guinness Ghana Breweries Group. The Government declared a state of emergency after torrential rains in late August and early September resulted in flooding, affecting over 200,000 people. Health workers declared both food and safe drinking water an urgent need, as the destruction of houses, crops, and public infrastructure forced affected populations to relocate. Already active in Ghana, EWV was able to immediately respond with the donation of water filters. Provision of clean, potable water is critical to reducing health risks associated with the consumption of contaminated water. These health risks include typhoid, dysentery, cholera and parasitic diseases. Each filter can supply the daily needs for clean drinking water for up to 15 people.

“The recent floods in these communities exacerbated the already existing problem of poor access to safe drinking water,” said Don Feil, President and CEO of EWV. “Recognizing the extreme health risks that arise from situations like these, EWV felt it necessary to offer assistance where it can. It is our hope that the donation of water filters will lessen the outbreaks of diseases associated with drinking contaminated water in the aftermath of this emergency.”

Since March of 2006, with funding from Diageo Foundation and their local affiliate, the Guinness Ghana Breweries Group, EWV has been active in Ghana disseminating a locally made ceramic water filter that offers an affordable household level solution to the problem of unsafe drinking water. In Ghana, many communities currently rely on open traditional

wells, streams and other contaminated water sources. Throughout the course of the 12-month project EWV will market and distribute 10,000 locally made filters to improve public health and establish a profitable and sustainable supply chain creating local jobs and income.

For over 40 years, EnterpriseWorks/VITA has worked diligently to fulfill its mission to combat poverty by helping small producers and other entrepreneurs build sustainable businesses that create jobs and increase productivity, market opportunities and incomes. EWV achieves this by expanding access to appropriate technologies, technical assistance, knowledge and finance.

EWV maintains a close-knit network of field and affiliate offices in Africa and Asia – enabling substantial knowledge sharing and collaboration across countries and regions.

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