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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Relief International and EnterpriseWorks/VITA Merge
Providing A Wider Spectrum of Poverty Reduction Solutions Worldwide**

Los Angeles, California – July 1, 2009

Relief International (RI; www.ri.org), a premier global relief and development organization based in California has joined forces with EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWV; www.enterpriseworks.org), a Washington, D.C. based non-profit that combats global poverty through sustainable, enterprise-oriented solutions.

RI and EWV share a common mission in their dedication to poverty alleviation worldwide. Founded in 1990, RI has offices and operations in 19 countries with a focus on bridging relief to development. EWV (originally Appropriate Technology International and later merged with Volunteers in Technical Assistance) has for more than four decades helped millions of small producers and other entrepreneurs with programs to build sustainable businesses that create jobs and increase productivity, market opportunities and incomes.

“EWV is a recognized leader in providing enterprise based solutions in combating poverty globally. The merger of our two organizations allows for a broad-spectrum approach to poverty alleviation”, says Dr. Farshad Rastegar, CEO of Relief International, “combining Relief International’s expertise in disaster mitigation and poverty reduction at the very bottom of the pyramid with EWV’s experience and expertise in development at the next critical tiers.”

The combined organizations demonstrate expanded global coverage and more. “The synergy between RI and EWV is a natural one of providing a full range of services to low-income communities. This is the future of international development aid being realized today,” says Don Feil the CEO of EWV. “Together we provide a global and sustainable approach to economic development through creating value-chains and linking the most vulnerable, marginalized and rural communities to economic opportunities.”

The combined organizations shall maintain offices in California and Washington, D.C. working together in more than 30 countries to combat global poverty through humanitarian and economic development programs based on sustainable, enterprise-oriented solutions.

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