



PRESS KIT

WATER KILLS AND WATER SAVES LIVES: A HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

World Water Day: March 22nd 2009

5th World Water Forum in Istanbul: March 16th – 22nd



Contact us for all overseas reports, interviews with hydraulic engineers both in the field and in Paris, photos and films (royalty-free) and a documentary on water and sanitation.

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For more information, see www.votregouttedeau.org

Editorial

Water kills and water saves lives: a humanitarian emergency

900 million of us do not have access to clean drinking water, and 2.5 billion do not have access to sanitation! Every year, 8 million human beings die of water-related diseases ⁽¹⁾ such as diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, malaria, hepatitis and trachoma. Of these, 1.8 million are children.

According to a survey carried out by the Institut LH2 ⁽²⁾, only 1% of the French population is even aware of the problem and as for the other 99%, this is news! These figures are similar in other countries too. We must break down the barriers of silence and ignorance that prevent vital resources from being mobilised. We must use all possible means to reduce the death toll. Unsafe water is currently killing more people than all armed conflicts put together!

We need to put pressure on the political decision-makers who are aware of the situation but are not doing enough. In order to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, international aid must be doubled, or even tripled ⁽³⁾.

This is an urgent matter, because the financial and food crisis will hit the poorest people first and hardest, including victims of armed conflict and natural disasters. And yet international aid, including aid from France, is not even fulfilling its official commitments. This situation is scandalous and dangerous.

In this press kit, you will find all the essential information, as well as eyewitness reports from *SOLIDARITES* volunteers, who are providing people in the most desperate situations in all four corners of the world with clean drinking water and sanitation, demonstrating that something can in fact be done.

We are happy to provide journalists and members of the media with interviews and information, including field visits, phone interviews, photos, films, facts and figures, in-person interviews, etc.

We have launched a petition ⁽⁴⁾, with the goal of obtaining 100,000 signatures to be delivered to the French, European and UN authorities during World Water Day on March 22nd ⁽⁵⁾, and at the World Water Forum in Istanbul (March 16th - 22nd).



Alain Boinet
Director General
aboinet@solidarites.org

(1) L'Eau. Michel Camdessus. Robert Laffont. 2004.

(2) The French public and water in the world. Telephone survey carried out for *SOLIDARITES* on February 29th and March 1st 2008, with a sample of 1053 people, representative of the population aged 15 and over. Results are available.

(3) In 2000, UN member states committed themselves to cutting world poverty rates in half by 2015. Water and sanitation are included in Objective number 7.

(4) Sign this petition on www.votregoutteau.org

(5) World Water Day, a UN initiative, is held each year on March 22nd. As this is a Sunday in 2009, it is likely to be held on March 19th. More information will follow.

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See our website for further information: www.solidarites.org
To sign the petition for access to clean drinking water for all, go to www.votregoutteau.org

Drinking water - a global and local emergency

Key facts and figures:

Unsafe water is responsible for 8 million deaths a year⁽¹⁾, including 1.8 million children. Causes of death include diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, malaria and trachoma.

The global population⁽²⁾ increased by a factor of 3.75 over the course of the 20th century, increasing from 1.6 billion in 1900 to 6 billion in 2000. Water usage has increased by a factor of 7.66, from 500km³ to 5830km³. UNDP report on Human Development, 2006.

Approximately 900 million human beings do not have access to drinking water, 2.5 billion have very little access to sanitation, and 1.2 billion have no access to sanitation⁽³⁾.

Nearly 2 out of 3 people with no access to drinking water survive on less than 2 U.S. dollars a day. 1 person out of 3 lives on less than 1 dollar a day⁽⁴⁾.

Between now and 2020, water consumption will increase by 40%. Peter Gleick, director of the Pacific Institute⁽⁵⁾.

In Afghanistan, 78% of the country's 26 million inhabitants do not have access to drinking water, and 70% do not have access to sanitation⁽⁶⁾.

In the DRC, 54% of the country's 60 million inhabitants do not have access to drinking water, and 69% do not have access to sanitation⁽⁷⁾.

Notes

(1) Eau. Michel Camdessus. Robert Laffont. 2004.

(2) UNDP. Global report on Human Development 2006.

(3) WHO/UNICEF. JMT. Progress on drinking water and sanitation. 2008.

(4) UNPD. op. cit. (2).

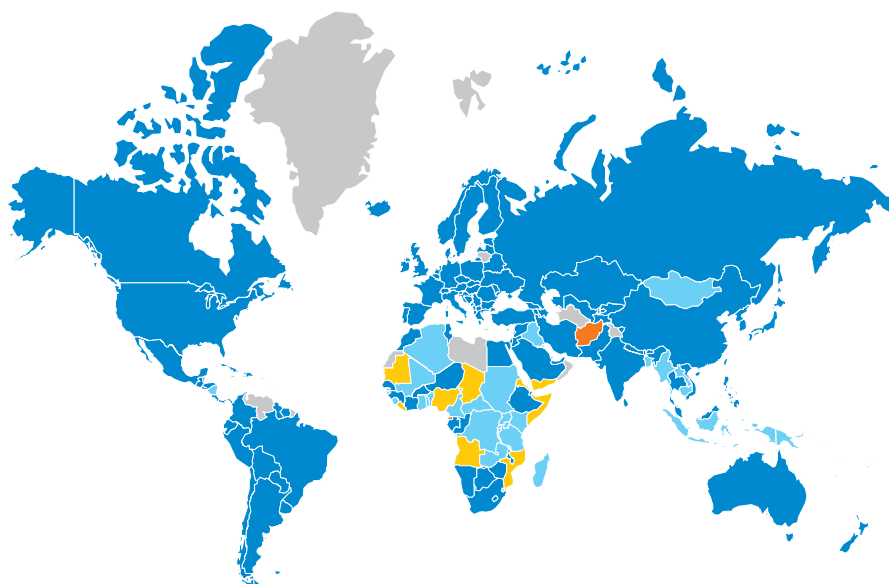
(5) Peter Gleick, director of the Pacific Institute. Le Monde, 6/2/2009.

(6) WHO/UNICEF. JMT. op. cit.

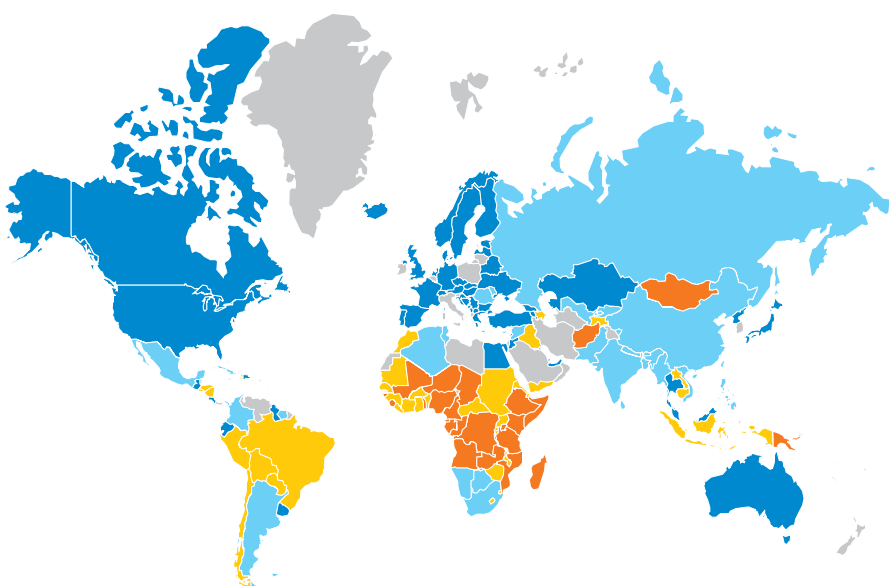
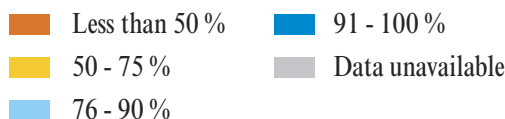
(7) WHO/UNICEF. JMT. ibid

THE DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCES IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS ARE GREATEST IN LATIN AMERICA AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

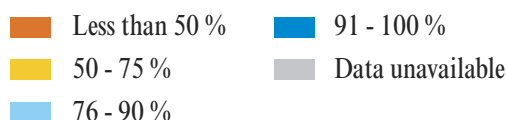
Source: 2008 report «Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation», WHO and UNICEF



Percentage of the urban population using improved drinking water sources (2006)

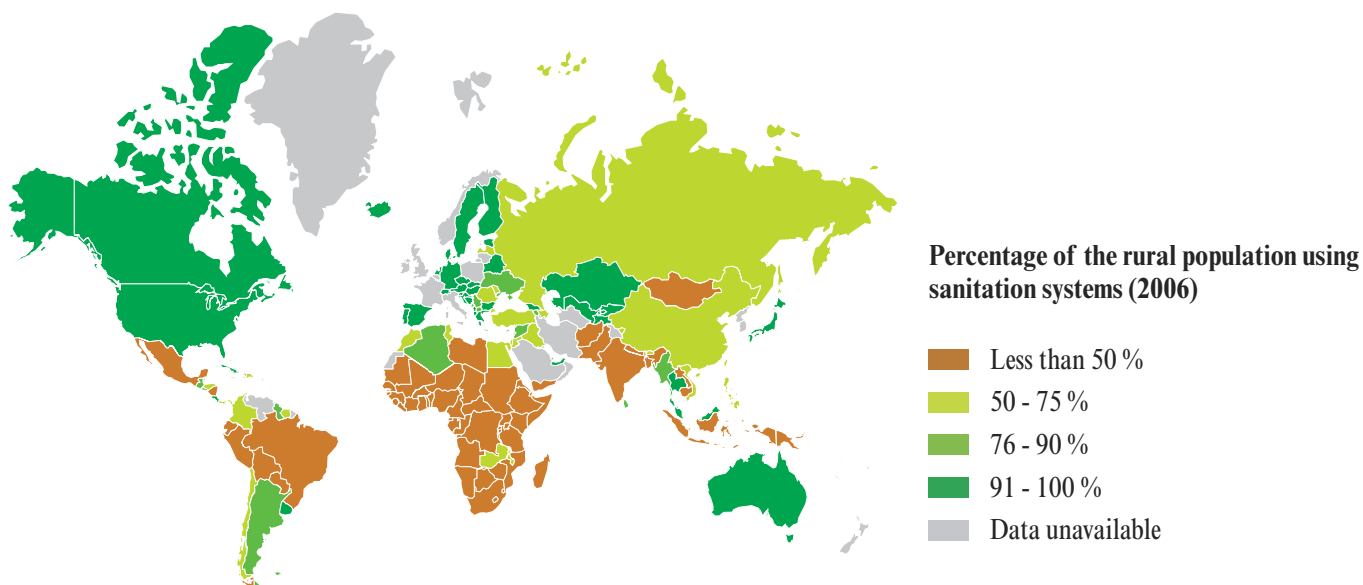
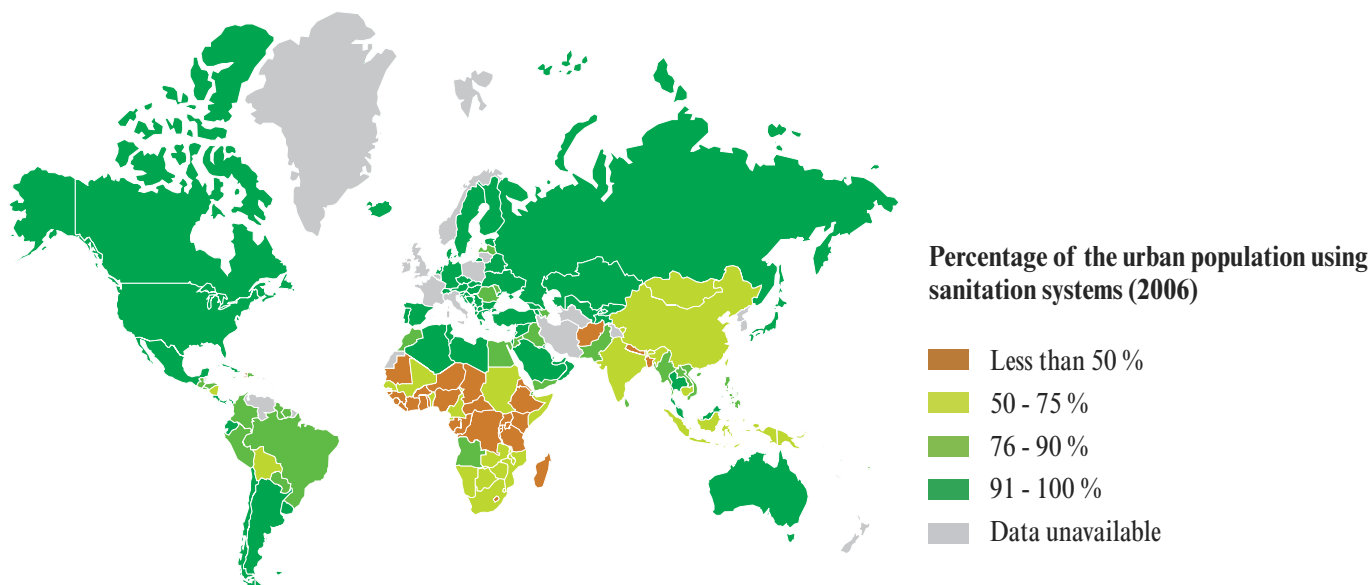


Percentage of the rural population using improved drinking water sources (2006)



THE DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION SYSTEMS IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS ARE SIGNIFICANT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Source: 2008 report «Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation», WHO and UNICEF



CLEAN DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION - TWO INSEPARABLE NEEDS

by Anne-Sophie Arnoux, water and sanitation expert

Water and sanitation are two complementary domains in the fight against water-borne diseases. Clean drinking water is the source of life, whereas an unsanitary environment is a danger to life and health.

The lack of sanitation systems forces people to defecate in open sewers, in rivers, near water sources or places where food is prepared. Environmental pollution by disease-causing germs in faecal matter contaminates the water and transmits disease. It is therefore important to protect upstream water resources, in order to

improve the quality of drinking water downstream. Studies show that improved sanitation reduces the death rate from diarrhoeal diseases by one-third. However, 16% of the world's population do not have access to drinking water and 40% do not have access to improved sanitation.

In order to protect water as a resource, and prevent the spread of water-related diseases, it is vital to systematically establish a link between water, sanitation, hygiene practices and public health.

Living without drinking water or access to sanitation: individual stories

Brice Lebegue and Jean-Claude Bonane, in charge of access to water and sanitation and the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in North Kivu (DRC)

«Most of the time people don't have enough water, only 1-3 litres per person in the areas where displaced persons have set up camp and rely on locals to share their resources. The sanitation situation is often severe with displaced persons having no private areas to relieve themselves, wash, or deal with household waste. The lack of a water supply structure and the inadequacies of shared water supplies make families very vulnerable. The situation is made worse by the need to seek out water supplies beyond camp boundaries or to wait for nightfall before getting washed or attending to personal hygiene, which places women and children at risk of being attacked. Finally, the lack of proper facilities along with overcrowding and high population density raises the risk of an epidemic developing after just a few days. In the first instance, we aim to provide a minimum of 5 litres of water per person per day. Below this threshold it isn't possible to maintain sufficient hygiene standards to prevent water-borne illnesses or to guarantee that everybody's basic needs are met (drinking, food preparation, newborn infant hygiene, washing of kitchen utensils...)» - «Their only alternative strategies for getting water are to collect rainwater or to fetch it from a river, a lake or a water source where there are leaks.»

Anne-Sophie Arnoux and Helene Puget, managers of the access to water and sanitation programmes in Kabul, Afghanistan:

«SOLIDARITES works in the poor areas on the outskirts of Kabul where people returning from Iran and Pakistan have set up camp: there is either no water infrastructure or the little there is has been seriously damaged by the war. These families have very difficult access to drinking water, either obtaining it from the «Karez», which are filthy streams, or by going further afield to public drinking fountains: it takes 3 to 4 hours per day fetch water. Water quality is a public health problem, with a very high death rate due to water-borne illnesses. This particularly affects children under five years old: one Afghan woman told us that she had lost





AFP ©

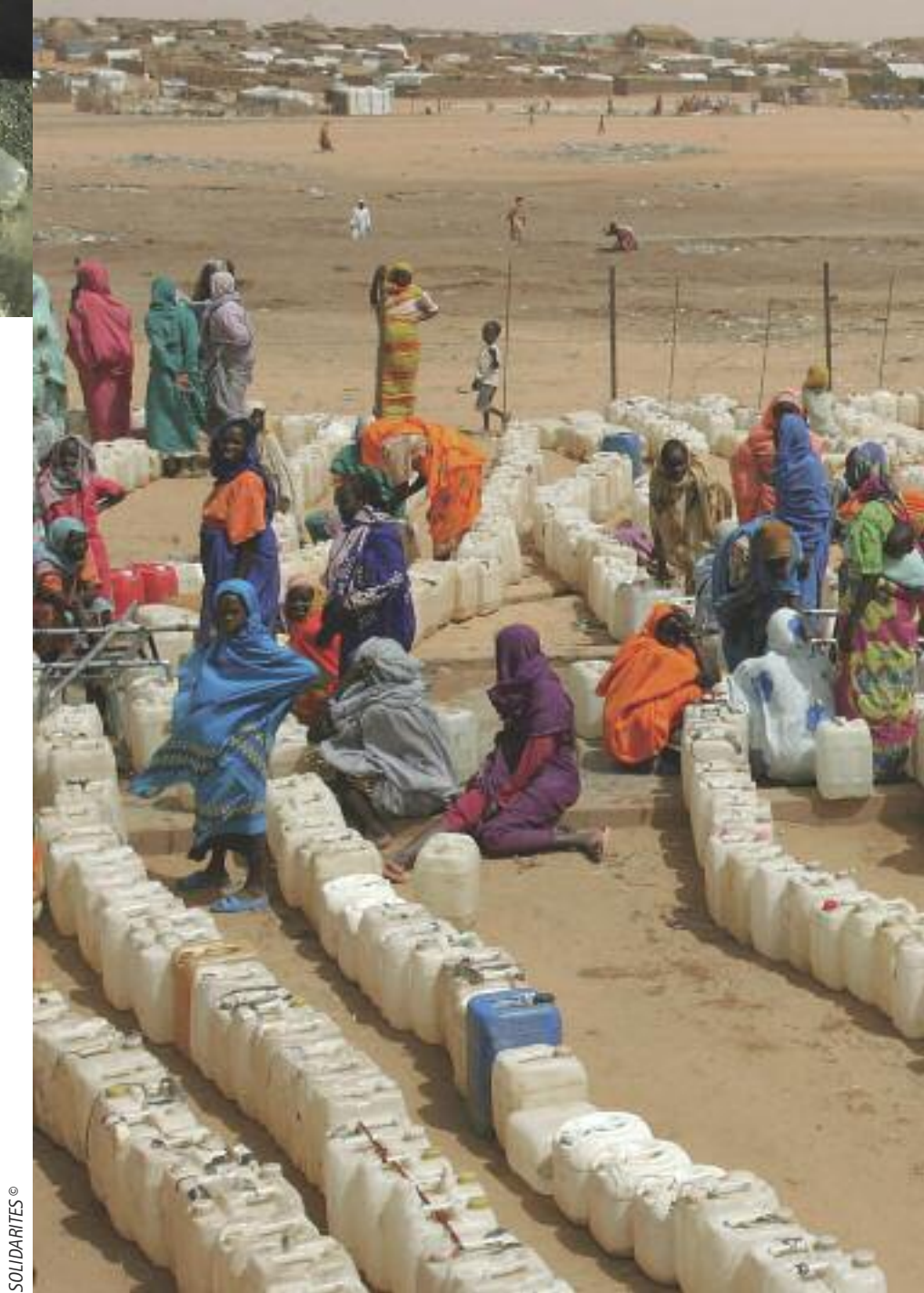
people don't have to wait for days at a time or set out on the treacherous six-hour round trip to the nearest well. If the wait is too long, the women - they are the ones who deal with getting water - register their name with the wardens at the borehole and leave their jerry cans to keep their place so that they can come back in time for the

next distribution. SOLIDARITES also carries out hygiene education (hand washing), latrine construction, etc. At the borehole, SOLIDARITES uses a simple method to guard against contamination: you cannot come and get fresh water supplies unless you have first scrubbed the stagnant scum inside your jerry can with a few small stones and a bit of elbow grease. All this gives at least 500 families with at least 4 members 15 litres of water per day for drinking, washing, cooking and tending a vegetable garden...».

3 children in the last year and right now we are noticing cases of cholera. Because there is no waste management in this area, rubbish and excrement are thrown into the street, increasing the health risks of the water in the Karez. At the end of the day, water has to be used for basic needs before being used for hygiene purposes» -
 «The Syed Hakim Bolbol family is from Pakistan. Before our programme was set up, the 15 members of the family only had 200 litres of water per day, of which 50 litres were for drinking and the rest (150L) was for washing dishes, cooking and personal hygiene.»

Tugdual de Dieuleveult, journalist:
 «Seleah in Darfur, where 25,000 people share water from two wells.»

«Sand, 40°C in the shade, a dry and burning heat. This is Seleah, a village of 4,000 souls in Darfur where 20,000 new arrivals fleeing abuse and violence are gathered together because here, at least you can find water. In this town of straw and plastic tarps, there are just two bore holes, one of which was built by SOLIDARITES. With the local community, SOLIDARITES has set up a system so that



SOLIDARITES ©

Access to drinking water and sanitation: solutions without sufficient resources

Experience, expertise, innovative solutions and adaptations: examples of SOLIDARITES' action

Chad: rope pumps and sand filters, simple and innovative solutions:

At the Ade health centre in south-eastern Chad, near the border with Darfur (Sudan), 35% of cases seen are waterborne diseases (diarrhoea, parasitosis, malaria, eye and skin infections, etc.). No new water supply point has been built in this semi-desert zone since 2003. The traditional wells - almost all contaminated - entail a dangerous trek. And without isolated latrines, the refugee and resident population of 40,000 is increasingly at risk from epidemics. The *SOLIDARITES* programme for access to water and sanitation (maintenance and expansion of the neglected water network, construction of 7 closed wells, and setting up of water-management committees, water purification using sand filters, construction of 300 family latrines and the promotion of hygiene) facilitates access for 15,000 people to 11 litres of drinking water per person per day (compared to 3 litres previously). The sand filters distributed to the families are effective and innovative: pas-

*Opposite:
Chad: a rope
pump
installed by
SOLIDARITES*

*Below: The
workshop in
Ade where
the sand
filters are
produced*



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sing unsafe water drawn from the wadi (a river that is dried up for half of the year) through a bed of sand and gravel results in filtered water which is safe to drink. The construction of wells fitted with rope pumps enables water to be drawn without too much physical effort.

Julien Cadu, supervisor of the *SOLIDARITES* programme in Ade, reports:

«I used to see women walking for hours along dangerous roads to fetch water from the wadi, which, more often than not, was unsafe to drink; our action was totally warranted. It was a challenge, as we were questioning their customs; but when their living conditions improved, they began to trust us: the gamble had paid off. Ever since then, whenever we pass the women that we saw at the start of our mission, we're greeted with beaming smiles.»

Afghanistan / Darfur: sinking deep wells:

Sinking deep wells to provide access to drinking water is expertise that *SOLIDARITES* has developed, both in semi-desert zones such as Darfur, and urban areas like Kabul:

☛ **In Darfur**, *SOLIDARITIES* implemented almost 80 boreholes in the Nertiti (west Darfur) area and also in Shaeria, Seleah and Muhajeria (south Darfur) and in Feina (Jebel Mara), in order to increase the amount of drinking water available to displaced or local people. In this semi-desert region, you have to drill through the sedimentary layer, and then hard rock, to reach the water table that builds up during the rainy season. The boreholes implemented by *SOLIDARITIES* are from 30 to 70 metres deep. The drilled water-supply points are fitted with manual pumps. Training in maintenance, setting up water-management committees, instruction in hygiene, and the construction of latrines complete our operation.



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Ahmed Fadel, former *SOLIDARITES* volunteer in Nertiti, Darfur, reports:

«I saw an excited crowd, wide eyes staring at the hole from which WATER WAS GUSHING FORTH... I entered the zone where the drilling team was working and threw myself into the arms of my colleagues,

practically with tears in my eyes... 'It's worked this time, we have water with an excellent outflow; we're going to install that submerged pump for them; they're going to have water!' And then the celebrations began; everybody was shouting and dancing: TAMAM OUEEEHH (yippee - it works!) MOYAAAAAAAAA (water!) OUAHHH».



Above: a deep borehole created by *SOLIDARITES* in Darfur

Opposite: in Kabul, *SOLIDARITES* drilling boreholes in an urban zone

☛ **In Kabul**, in the deprived areas of Districts 6 and 13, *SOLIDARITES* is the project manager for 135 boreholes with an average depth of 50 metres. Fitted with hand pumps, these wells provide 8,336 returnee families from Pakistan and Iran with better access to drinking water. Apart from the wells, this programme aims to set up water-management committees, to train technicians to maintain the infrastructures, to restore 810 latrines, to construct 25 rubbish pits and set up a collection system, a hygiene-awareness campaign, and the distribution of 3,500 hygiene kits...

Anne-Sophie Arnoux, former water and sanitation supervisor in Kabul, reports:

«Thanks to the installation of wells fitted with hand pumps (1 well for 50 families, located a maximum of 200 metres from the dwellings), the restoration of latrines, and the installation of rubbish-collection points, we have seen an improvement in personal living conditions and a drop in waterborne diseases.»

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Providing drinking water and sanitation in emergency situations, prevention of epidemics and reconstruction: 3 examples of our work in the Democratic Republic of Congo:

🚰 **Emergency response:** In North Kivu and Ituri, SOLIDARITES has developed an «RRM» rapid response mechanism in conjunction with UNICEF and OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), to supply populations displaced by the war with drinking water and hygiene measures within 48 hours: distribution of water by water-tankers, distribution of soap, jerry cans, mosquito nets, water chlorination... This is how, in November 2008, we carried out an unprecedented humanitarian operation for 135,000 people in danger in Kiwanja, Ruthuru and Tongo in North Kivu.

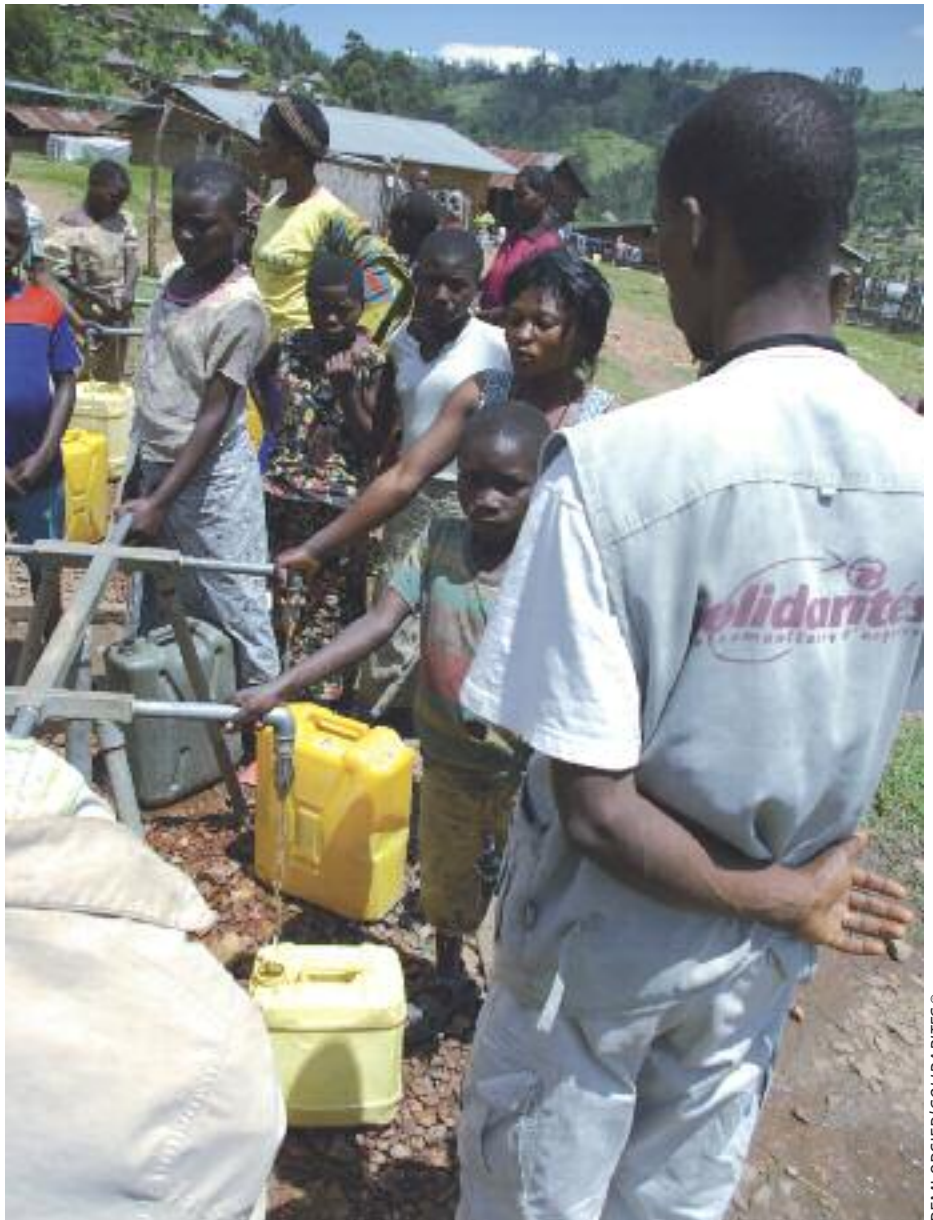
Jérôme Kouachi, base supervisor at Kiwanja in North Kivu, reports:

«The health centres have reported a decline in cholera rates over the weeks following this distribution - proof, if proof were needed, that our operation is worthwhile.»

🚰 **Prevention:** in the territories of Kalemie and Nyunzu, in Katanga, SOLIDARITES is preventing the spread of cholera, through projects aimed at 333,000 people: the construction of 20 large water fountains, 211 wells, over 1,120 latrines, 36 springs, supplying the cholera treatment centre with drinking water, education in hygiene and in modes of transmission of waterborne diseases, creation of one water-management committee per village, and one hygiene committee per health centre.

Above: emergency distribution of drinking water by a SOLIDARITES rapid response team in North Kivu

Opposite: SOLIDARITES fighting the spread of cholera by installing chlorination points for drawn water.



REMI ORSIER/SOLIDARITES ©



CARL DE KEYZER/AGENCE MAGNUM ©



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Work in progress for the new water treatment station built by SOLIDARITES in Beni.

Pierre Gallien, Director of SOLIDARITES missions, reports on our operation in Kalemie:

«Kalemie is a former trading centre on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. The war has led to a rise in its population, and a deterioration of the water-distribution network, which has been accentuated by the lack of water-storage resources. The population has therefore taken to fetching its (undrinkable) water supply from either the lake or the river, leading to the appearance of a source for the endemic and epidemic spread of cholera. In response, SOLIDARITES has set up a programme that aims to take preventative steps against any epidemic and to eradicate cholera at source in the long run. In concrete terms, we are carrying out the restoration and extension of the existing water-distribution network, the installation of large water fountains in selected locations in the town, and, most importantly, a hygiene-education phase. Finally, in the event of a cholera epidemic, chlorination points for the water supply are to be provided. An essential element of the programme is community participation, starting with the involvement of Régideso, a semi-private Congolese organization responsible for the technical management of the network, and also for setting a reasonable price for drinking water - on which the durability of the system depends. Paradoxically, it is this payment for the water that enables the users to have access to drinking water at a relatively low price (otherwise, the retailers would charge a good deal more), and to take an active part once again in the provision of their water and in their health.»

🔧 **Construction:** since 2003, SOLIDARITES has been conducting a humanitarian project in North Kivu that is unique throughout the world, comprehensive, innovative, and cheap

to run: the programme to pipe drinking water to the town of Beni. The initial project was conceived to respond to the drinking-water needs of the population of Beni (270,000 inhabitants, but rising sharply, with the influx of displaced populations) by the year 2010. Launched at the end of 2003, it includes 5 river harnessing points in the

hills, a 10-km mains pipe, a water-purification plant (using an innovative biological back-filtration system), storage tanks, 50 km of distribution networks in town, with 40 river crossings and 84 large water fountains. This was completed in October 2005 thanks to the wholesale participation of the inhabitants. Completed in accordance with local customs to enable local populations to take over the network and maintain it, this programme was carried out thanks to EU funding from EuropeAid, and in partnership with Aqatrium (technical support for the duration of the project) and Aquassistance (supplying equipment and human resources). The project continued with a support phase for the local management of the network by the REGIDESO (semi-private Congolese organization responsible for the technical management of the network), then, from 2008 onwards, with a second phase of works to extend access to the new water network to the suburban districts of Beni, in particular by building 18 large water fountains, and laying 55 km of water mains.

From emergency to reconstruction, which concrete responses have been implemented by our volunteer teams of water and sanitation experts? The answers are shown clearly in the following table:

IN EMERGENCIES:			
WATER	Hygiene	Sanitation of the environment	Boosting local skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water treatment and distribution via water tanker - Chlorination plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribution of hygiene kits (bars of soap, mosquito nets, water bottles...) - Hygiene awareness (elementary hygiene) - Installation of temporary showers and washbasins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defecation trenches/fields - Temporary latrines - Rubbish pits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chlorinator training - Training of «community representatives» (health officers)
DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION PHASE/SUPPORT FOR THE LONGER-TERM			
WATER	Hygiene	Sanitation of the environment	Boosting local skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water-source development; - Construction/restoration of wells/boreholes; - Restoration/expansion of gravity-fed networks - Installation/rehabilitation of treatment plants - Rainwater collection - Construction/rehabilitation of irrigation channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campaign to promote hygiene (personal hygiene, as well as water, environmental and food hygiene) - Installation of hygiene infrastructures (washing areas, washbasins...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction/restoration of durable family and public latrines; - Latrine emptying - Composting areas - Rainwater drainage ; - Rubbish-collection points; - Clinical waste management (incinerators/pits for sharp waste) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation/revival of hygiene committees - Training of key actors in hygiene promotion (instructors, health officers...) - Institutional support of actors/authorities in charge of the management of water and sanitation

The shameful inadequacy of international aid

- In 2006, donations and loans in the form of bilateral and multilateral aid for sanitation and the provision of drinking water increased to 6.4 billion US dollars, of which 3.3 billion constitute donations and 3.1 billion loans⁽¹⁾.
- 3.3 billion US dollars of donations equals less than 5% of international aid for development. In order to reach the Millennium Development Objectives, the level of aid must be increased by 3.4 to 4 billion US dollars each year, i.e. doubled!⁽²⁾
- 16 very poor countries received less than half a US dollar of aid per citizen for sanitation and the provision of drinking water. Burundi, Chad and Somalia are amongst these countries according to an OECD/DAC report published in December 2008⁽³⁾.
- Between 2006 and 2007 Official Development Assistance (ODA) from member countries of the OECD⁽⁴⁾ topped 103.5 billion US dollars, which equals 0.31% of GNI in 2006, versus 0.28% in 2007. This makes a decrease of 8.5% in terms of aid.
- In France⁽⁵⁾ ODA fell from 10.6 billion US dollars to 9.94 billion, a decrease from 0.47% to 0.39% of GNI! In accordance with the objectives of EU member states, France has committed to increasing its contribution to 0.42% or even 0.47% of GNI in 2009, then to reach 0.51% in 2010, i.e. 4 billion US dollars more than its contribution in 2007.

Notes

(1) OECD/DAC OCDE/CAD. Measuring Aid to Water Supply and Sanitation. December 2008.

www.oecd.org/dac/stats/crs/water

(2) UNDP Global Report on Human Development 2006 <http://hdr.undp.org>

(3) OECD/DAC OCDE/CAD. Measuring Aid to Water Supply and Sanitation. December 2008.

www.oecd.org/dac/stats/crs/water

(4) OECD Are aid objectives on their way to becoming unattainable? Les objectifs d'aide seraient-ils en passe de devenir inaccessibles? www.oecd.org/cad/stats.

(5) OECD Are aid objectives on their way to becoming unattainable? (5) OCDE. *ibid*

VERONIQUE LEBOURGEOIS/SOLIDARITES®



THE IMPORTANCE OF IRRIGATION FOR FOOD SECURITY: AFGHANISTAN AS AN EXAMPLE

by Peggy Pascal (expert in food security) and Gaylord Robin (coordinator of food security programmes in Afghanistan):

In Afghanistan, agriculture is the population's primary resource. More than 50% of the population suffer from chronic food insecurity, particularly in the zones where *SOLIDARITES* is working. The continental arid Afghan climate is marked by periods of drought and so sufficient access to irrigation water is therefore vital to food security. In this highly mountainous country, only 10% of land is cultivated and 4% irrigated!

Optimisation of irrigation and/or drainage allows yields to increase and extends the growing season. In the Saighan Valley for example, where lack of water and high altitude only permits one growing season per year, *SOLIDARITES* is developing the use of small motor-pumps (without impacting on the traditional methods of water management and the river flow) in order to draw water to the surface and secure agricultural production.

Full Alert for Water

SOLIDARITES' campaign for access to clean drinking water for all:

The image shows a screenshot of the website www.votregouttedeau.org. At the top right, a digital counter displays '057428' signatures. The website features the **Solidarités** logo and a central graphic of a water tap with a single drop falling into a glass. Text boxes around the graphic include: 'Je signe la pétition', 'Agir parce que l'eau non potable tue!', 'J'alerte mes amis', and 'SOLIDARITES en action'. On the left, a section titled 'L'eau non potable' states: 'Aujourd'hui, plus d'1 milliard de personnes n'ont pas accès à l'eau potable!', 'est la première cause de mortalité dans le monde.', 'Chaque minute 15 personnes meurent victimes de maladies liées à une eau insalubre.', and 'Votre goutte d'eau c'est une voix en plus.' Below this is a 'Je signe la pétition' button. At the bottom, it says 'Merci à l'ensemble de nos partenaires qui soutiennent notre campagne pour l'accès à l'eau potable pour tous : Agence EDDP et Fils, Agen'.

On the website dedicated to our petition www.votregouttedeau.org the signature counter is climbing towards 100 000...

Informing, communicating, working together so that water can save lives!

Eight million people die in silence each year because of unsafe water. We are able to reduce this silent slaughter if water becomes a greater priority for public institutions.

There are local solutions to solving this global problem which our volunteer teams, a number of them water and sanitation experts, have been putting into place in the field for 29 years. To enable public awareness and a determined commitment from political powers to provide the necessary methods for putting these

solutions into place, we are providing journalists and the media with the following information, should they wish to use it.

- ☛ A dedicated website with our petition www.votregouttedeau.org and our general website www.solidarites.org
- ☛ Our quarterly journal, as well as this press kit and information
- ☛ The organisation of a field report on this subject at one of **SOLIDARITES' 16 missions**
- ☛ Phone interviews with the hydraulicians from these missions
- ☛ Illustration photos (royalty-free)
- ☛ Film and video images (royalty-free)
- ☛ Interviews with specialists at **SOLIDARITES** headquarters and campaign managers
- ☛ General information on water and sanitation, and on the Istanbul Forum

Our previous campaigns

For *SOLIDARITES*, as for the 900 million people who do not have any, access to clean drinking water is a priority. Since 2004, at the time of World Water Day on 22nd March, *SOLIDARITES* has been alerting the public and decision makers about this issue. Let us look back over this communication campaign, which has also been the call to arms of our field teams for more than 29 years. In 2004, after bringing to light the shocking fact that unsafe water is the number one cause of death in the world, *SOLIDARITES* produced bottles of «contaminated» water for journalists in 2005 in order to illustrate the reality of this dramatic situation. This was followed in 2006 by an event for World



Water Day at the Fontaine des Innocents in Paris. In 2007 a dedicated website www.votregoutteau.org was created and *SOLIDARITES* launched a petition which was handed to the French Minister of European and Foreign Affairs, Bernard Kouchner for World Water Day 2008 with a total of

51 464 signatures. But the battle continues: for World Water Day and the 5th Global Water Forum in March 2009 in Istanbul we want to reach our goal of 100 000 signatures which will be officially handed to authorities in France, the European Commission in Brussels and at the Istanbul Forum.



Our principal partners

Institutional partners:

- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Crisis Centre/CIAA)
- French Development Agency
- French Water Partnership
- Seine/Normandy Water Agency/Rhine Meuse Water Agency
- European Commission (ECHO and EuropeAid)
- DFID (UK)
- OFDA (US)
- United Nations (UNICEF, PAM, HCR OCHA, FAO, PNUD, UNJLC)

And more: CHF (Common Humanitarian Funds), MRRD (Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development)

Foundations/Companies:

- La Fondation de France
 - La Fondation Yves Rocher
 - Veolia Force
 - Crédit Coopératif
 - Aquassistance (Groupe Suez)
- And more:** Les laboratoires Sanofi-Aventis, La Fondation Schneider Electric, Michelin, Groupe Bayard, Société Eléphant bleu, Société Chateaud'eau

Media Partners:

- BDDP & Fils and the TBWA group

World Water Day 2009. Our demands for access to drinking water and sanitation, a humanitarian emergency

- ☛ We are calling for international aid funds to be doubled, i.e. that from 2009 they be increased by nearly four billion US dollars each year in order to meet the UN's commitment to its Millennium Development Goals.
- ☛ We are calling for the promised funds to be quickly and rapidly put into place. In actual fact, between 2002 and 2006, only 69% of promised funds were honoured.
- ☛ We are calling for an exceptional effort to be made for poor countries where conflict or a natural disaster has occurred, as well as for states in a fragile political situation.
- ☛ We are calling for France to honour the promises it made in 2005, whereby it committed to double its aid (ODA) by making a supplementary contribution of 180 mil-

lion euros per year, equal to 290 million euros in 2009. This commitment was chiefly aimed at Africa and was meant to significantly increase France's collaboration in this area with NGOs.

- ☛ We are calling, at the end of the 5th Global Water Forum taking place in Istanbul from 16th to 22nd March 2009, for the 6th Forum in 2012 to take into consideration emergency humanitarian situations and post-crisis reconstruction in its official programme, notably for Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ☛ We are calling for the publication of a documented annual report to ensure a precise follow-up of requirements, commitments and outcomes, and in order to allow for a global mobilisation that is better coordinated and more effective.



SOLIDARITES

10 commitments for access to water and sanitation

SOLIDARITES is committed to

1 - Providing access to drinking water and sanitation in emergency situations to the most vulnerable people.

2 - Providing drinking water tested by us and which meets public health criteria.

3 - Promoting training in health hygiene rules in order to avoid waterborne diseases, which are the premier cause of death in the world.

4 - Creating in situations of reconstruction durable infrastructures that meet the needs of the local people by working together with them and their representatives.

5 - Acting in a manner which most conforms to the way of life, customs and culture of the local people from a development perspective.

6 - Overseeing the sustainability of water as a resource through the evaluation of resources and the training of users, managers and the authorities concerned in the correct management of this resource.

7 - Promoting cost-effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly treatment technologies for drinking water, wastewater and waste.

8 - Training maintenance teams to maintain and manage water infrastructure, contributing to setting up management committees with representatives among consumers, local authorities and partners.

9 - Improving, in a permanent manner, the efficiency of the service given to the public by implementing a quality water and sanitation project based on regular evaluation and the monitoring of projects.

10 - Informing and mobilising the opinion of the public and decision makers as part of a humanitarian campaign that we are leading to provide access to clean drinking water and hygienic conditions for all.

Presentation of SOLIDARITES

SOLIDARITES: from emergency humanitarian aid to reconstruction

SOLIDARITES is an international humanitarian aid organisation which assists civilian groups that are victims of armed conflict or natural disasters. Specialised in addressing the basic needs of food, water and shelter, it sets up emergency programmes first, then addresses reconstruction needs.

Our organisation

SOLIDARITES is a non-profit organisation founded by Alain Boinet, who is also the Director general. Pierre de La Bretesche is the President.

The General Assembly of members meets every year to elect the Administration Council (AC) which is made up of fourteen members. They then elect the Management Committee (six members including the President and the Treasurer). The AC meets every three months and the Management Committee meets once a month. There are forty permanent staff members and ten interns based at our headquarters in Clichy la Garenne.

The SOLIDARITES team, made up of 170 volunteers and more than a thousand managers and local workers, is currently working in thirteen countries across Africa and Asia: Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan (Darfur and

Southern Sudan), Chad, Bangladesh, Thailand and Myanmar.

Each year, more than 1.5 million people are helped by the humanitarian aid programmes set up by SOLIDARITES.



SOLIDARITES®

Humanitarian programmes adapted to the needs of the local population:

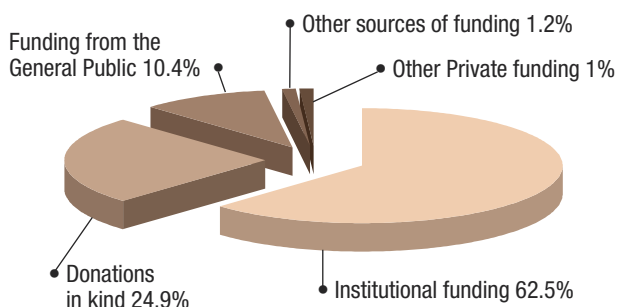
For 29 years SOLIDARITES has been developing its ability to respond to complex situations, where emergency aid, post-emergency aid and reconstruction follow on each other's heels and sometimes overlap. We respond to changing needs and adapt our approach to specific situations, taking account of local cultures and groups. Our approach is based on humanitarian com-

mitment, and is carried out by volunteers who support and understand our principles: access to clean drinking water and sanitation, food security and reconstruction. Our expertise in the field of securing access to clean drinking water and sanitation is at the forefront of our battle against waterborne diseases, which are the number one cause of death around the world. Of the

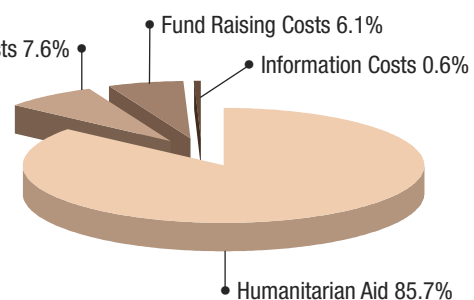
approximately one hundred programmes set up by SOLIDARITES, half are completely or partly involved with improving access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Our actions range from transporting water by truck to providing boreholes in emergency situations to setting up huge projects to reconstruct water conveyance networks or improve irrigation.

OUR BUDGET 37.5 million euros in 2007

BREAKDOWN OF SOURCES OF FUNDING UTILISED IN 2007



BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE 2007





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See our website for further information: www.solidarites.org

To sign the petition for access to clean drinking water for all, go to www.votregouttedeau.org