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Largest Carbon Credit Issuance for Cookstoves by the Gold Standard Registry to Relief International/EnterpriseWorks

Accra, Ghana (February 3, 2012) -- EnterpriseWorks, a division of Relief International (RI/EW), has received its first issuance of carbon credits generated through emission reductions from use of the Gyapa Cookstove in Ghana. In the largest single issuance for all cookstove projects developed under The Gold Standard more than 250,000 Verified Emission Reductions (VERs) were issued. The Gold Standard is an award winning certification standard for carbon mitigation projects, recognized internationally as the benchmark for quality in both the compliance and voluntary markets. RI/EW drive social and environmental change through the sale of stoves that reduce indoor air pollution, last longer, reduce fuel costs, and are safer than traditional cookstoves.

RI/EW has played a critical role in realizing sustained growth and poverty reduction in Ghana since 2002. Nearly three billion people worldwide use open fires and rudimentary cookstoves for their cooking. These cookstoves are unhealthy, unsafe and inhaling the acrid smoke and fine particulates they emit leads to nearly two million deaths of year, primarily of women and children. Also, inefficient cookstoves use more fuel and contribute to deforestation. Fuel costs or the time to collect fuel are a significant cost for billions of families around the world, including Ghana. The Gyapa stove offers a clean, safe, and cost effective environmental friendly cookstove option for Ghanaian families.

The design of the Gyapa Cookstove allows charcoal to be burned more efficiently and reduces toxic emissions. The Gyapa stove cuts charcoal usage by over 50 percent, resulting in significant savings at the household level while slowing forest degradation from harvesting wood for charcoal production. Gyapa users in Ghana saved \$8.5 million in 2010 as a result of reduced charcoal expenditure. Social impact is further realized with employment opportunities created throughout the production chain being sourced in Ghana. Since 2007, more than 287,000 Gyapa stoves have been sold.

About EnterpriseWorks and Relief International

EnterpriseWorks (EW), a division of Relief International (RI/EW), utilizes sustainable, enterprise-oriented solutions to combat poverty's systemic impacts. For 35 years, EW has built local private-sector driven efficiencies in energy, water, agriculture, and natural products/natural resource management value chains. Relief International is a Los Angeles-based global humanitarian organization that transforms adversity into renewal for the world's most vulnerable populations. Relief International's team of 2,000 relief and development professionals work to bridge the gap between immediate emergency relief and long-term community development through innovative and holistic programming that is grassroots-based. Since its establishment in 1990, Relief International has provided assistance in more than 50 countries. In 2009, EW merged with Relief International bringing together two leaders in their respective fields. For more information, please visit www.ri.org and www.enterpriseworks.org.

About The Gold Standard

The Gold Standard is the benchmark for quality in carbon markets and certifies renewable energy and energy efficiency carbon offset projects to ensure that they all demonstrate real and permanent greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and sustainable development benefits in local communities that are measured, reported and verified. Established in 2003 by WWF, The Gold Standard is the only certification standard trusted and endorsed by more than 80 NGOs worldwide, including Care International, World Vision Australia, Forum for the Future and Mercy Corps. For more information, please visit www.cdmgoldstandard.org

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