



The mission of "1001 fontaines" is to implement sustainable improvements in the health of people living in poor, isolated communities by enabling them locally to produce and distribute safe drinking water based on a social enterprise business model, which ensures that each village is self-sufficient and that the solutions are durable.

# Nobody should have to... ...drink "swamp water"!

The 1001 fontaines initiative is distinguished by the fact that it is focused on isolated rural communities, which are outside the scope of the mainstream development projects for providing safe drinking water. The 1001 fontaines solution uses and purifies the water that is available locally - surface water from swamps, rivers, ponds - without the need for specialised infrastructure.

The purified water is sold at a fixed price of less than € 0.01 per litre and distribution is done using 20 litre containers, which are disinfected, closed and sealed, thereby guaranteeing the water quality at the point of consumption. The management of the treatment unit and the distribution is undertaken by a family within the village based on a model of social entrepreneurship, which enables the entrepreneur to generate sufficient revenue to cover costs, as well as earn a living. This approach ensures that the solution is sustainable and that the villagers receive a high quality of service.

**As of 2012, more than 110,000 people in Cambodia and Madagascar benefit daily from safe drinking water**

The first stage of the initiative concentrated on the rural regions of north-west Cambodia and to date 60 operating sites have been implemented. These sites provide more than 60,000 people daily with safe drinking water. In 2012, a scale-up phase began, aimed at creating 200 new operating sites by 2016. These will supply around 500,000 people in the long term. Pilot projects are underway in 11 villages in Madagascar, while the strategic objective is to extend the deployment of the 1001 fontaines model to additional countries (India, Bangladesh ...)

As a result of the programme "Parraine moi... une fontaine" ("Sponsor a fountain"), we donate every day, safe water to primary schools in the villages, where we operate. This intervention is currently providing safe drinking water to more than 50,000 children ; the most vulnerable to water-borne diseases and their often fatal consequences.

The initiative has won a number of awards, notably the "Prix de la solidarité internationale 2006", which was given by the High Commission for International Cooperation (reporting to the Prime Minister of France).

In 2007 co-founder Chay Lo was awarded the Junior Chamber International (JCI) prize, which each year recognises "the 10 most outstanding young people in the world".

In September 2011, Chay Lo and 1001 fontaines were awarded the title of "Social entrepreneur of the year in Asia" by the Schwab Fondation (World Economic Forum) in Dalian, China.

[www.1001fontaines.com](http://www.1001fontaines.com)

- > 1001 fontaines (video 6 mn)
- > TF1 (video 1'40 mn)
- > 1001 fontaines by Shamengo (video 2 min)
- > Awareness cartoon (video 1 mn)