Executive Summary

Water, Poverty and Ethiopia

Kaelyn DiGiamarino, Bryan Guner, Oreoluwa Nubi

**Purpose:**

Our goal was to investigate the relationship between access to clean water and poverty, specifically within Ethiopia, in order to develop a sustainable solution to the water crisis.

**Context:**

Poverty affects nearly every person on the planet regardless of socioeconomic standing, some indirect consequences are:

* Crime
* Military confrontations over scares resources
* Transmission of disease
* Taxes for subsidies like welfare and food stamps.

**Water is both the cause and solution of poverty:**

* The human body can only survive approximately three days of dehydration.
* Within a day of dehydration the human body is hardly capable of labor.
* Without income from labor, most migrant workers cannot afford access to clean water and essential sustenance, which prevents them from finding new work.
* These conditions create a self-perpetuating, vicious cycle that keeps entire economies from prospering because they have to support the weight of crippling poverty.
* In the absence of the struggle for clean water, the time and resources previously devoted to acquiring and purifying water, as well as caring for water borne illness can be focused on food, education and infrastructure all of which benefit the economy immensely.

**Cause and effects of poverty in the U.S vs. Ethiopia:**

* In the U.S., access to unclean water is a result of poverty due to the fact that the poor cannot afford to keep the government accountable in all situations.
* In Ethiopia, lack of access to clean water is the cause of widespread poverty rather than an unfortunate side effect.

**Solutions:**

* Solar powered well with purification and pump.
* Life straw(individual straw and gravity filter)
* Creation of a department of transparency (to expose corruption)
* General financial aid
* Subsidized chlorination of water.

**Our Solution:**

Our solution is to create a school hosted in a foreign country that will educate Ethiopian citizens (primarily household matriarchs) to become water sanitization engineers. This solution is sustainable because the engineers will implement many solutions in order to establish basic water infrastructure while independently sustaining their families and riding Ethiopia of its most serious poverty trap.