What world problem are you concerned about?

Unclean water is a leading cause of death in many parts of the world [1]. Water sources all over the world are contaminated by waste and sewage. Approximately 2.6 billion people live without improved sanitation facilities and continue to drink unsafe water.

Why is this problem important?

Unclean drinking water leads to the spread of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and childhood diarrhea, one of the leading causes of death in children. Every 20 seconds a child under the age of five dies from water-related diseases. This problem primarily exists in poor areas where the people are prevented from growing economically because they are plagued with death and disease.

What aspect of this problem seems particularly important to you?

The people who drink unclean water do not do it by choice. They are forced to drink unclean water because they do not have alternative water sources or the money to filter the water.

How could a new software system help to solve this aspect of the problem?

A software system that connects more wealthy parts of the world with these poor areas could help to eradicate the problem of unclean drinking water. This system would provide willing people with the opportunity to indirectly buy water filters for poor families through making water purchases.

The system consists of five parts.

First, a merchant website would be developed to offer different types and brands of bottled water to consumers who are also interested in solving the unclean water crisis. Consumers would order bottled water by the case to be conveniently shipped to their door, which would lighten their load at the grocery store. Each time a consumer purchases their 10th case of water, their account will have built up enough funds to provide a water filter to a family in need.

The second part of the system would be the water companies. Participating companies would sell bottled water to the organization at wholesale price and make large shipments to a warehouse.

Third, the warehouse would sort the water and prepare shipments to customers. The warehouse would also make water filter shipments to the place of need.

The fourth part would be the shipping. A shipping company such as FedEx or UPS would be used to get the water to the consumer as well as ship the filters overseas.

Fifth, a water filter distribution center would be placed in an area with unclean water so that families could be provided with a water filter.

Why do you think that this idea will make a big impact on the world?

This idea will begin to meet the needs of those suffering from unclean water by allowing willing people to provide water filters for them. However, since there are benefits to the giver, it will be

easier than having to simply donate the money for filters. The website will be attractive to people who even slightly want to help those in need of water by offering a convenient water delivery service to them.

What sources did you use in writing this vision statement?

[1] "Unclean Water Claims More Lives Than War", *Environment News Service,* March 22, 2010

http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2010/03/22-7