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MERCK SUPPORTING RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

Montreal, Canada, Feb. 05 2010 - World wide, Merck is committed to assisting with the difficult situation in Haiti following the massive earthquake that has devastated the country.

Merck has made an initial contribution of \$350,000.00 to the American Red Cross, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Save the Children and the Jewish Renaissance Foundation in support of their work in the massive relief effort. Funding will help support the deployment of emergency response units, disaster specialists, blankets, clean water, therapeutic food, medical supplies and temporary shelter.

Merck's Office of Corporate Responsibility has been working to donate needed medicines through the Merck Medical Outreach Program to support the relief efforts. To-date Merck partners Direct Relief, AmeriCares and MAP International are planning to ship \$200,000 in market value of Merck products, including *Coricidin*, *Lotrimin*, *Noroxin*, *Pepcid* and others immediately from donated product already in their warehouses. In addition, the Office of Corporate Responsibility is evaluating additional requests from these and other Merck Medical Outreach Program partners Catholic Medical Mission Board, IMA World Health and Project HOPE.

In Canada, The Merck Employee Charity Trust Fund (MECTF), under the banner of the Humanitarian Coalition, organized a fundraising drive to support relief efforts in Haiti. In total, \$34,315.00 has been raised by employees in support of the Humanitarian Coalition. For every dollar donated by employees, Merck has matched their contribution. Coupled with the Government of Canada's matching program, a total of \$137,260.00 has been raised to support relief efforts in Haiti. The Humanitarian Coalition is a network of Canadian NGOs dedicated to a united response in cases of humanitarian crises. The Coalition has four members: CARE Canada, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam-Québec and Save the Children Canada. Merck has also pledged a donation of \$20,000.00 to Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) to assist with major shipments of medical aid. HPIC is a relief and development organization dedicated to increasing access to medicine and improving health in the developing world.

Merck is encouraged by the generosity of individuals and organizations around the world and remains committed to doing its part to assist earthquake victims in Haiti.