



Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, MdB
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche
Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Stresemannstr. 94
10963 Berlin

20 April 2009

Dear Mrs. Wieczorek-Zeul,

On 25 April, the international malaria community is commemorating the second World Malaria Day, which marks a critical moment in time. We have merely two years left to meet the universal coverage targets, as announced in September 2008 at the Malaria MDG summit and therefore to ensure that 100% of the people at risk of the disease have access to effective and high quality prevention and treatment measures.

There has been significant progress in the fight against malaria in terms of bed-nets, indoor residual spraying, and effective medicines, but the disease remains the leading global killer for children under 5 years of age and affects the health and wealth of malaria-endemic countries.

Great strides have been made in manufacturing, funding and distributing long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLINs) over the past 5 years. The World Malaria Report 2008 estimates that in 2006 the number of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets distributed almost tripled to 36 million since 2004. According to the new report on malaria control efforts in Africa, published by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria, Ray Chambers, more than 40 per cent of the sub-Saharan African population now has access to LLINs, compared to less than 10 per cent in 2005. This is a great achievement, but some 650 million children still need these protective nets.

A similar story can be told about artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT), the most effective antimalarial medicines available today. The report reveals that the production of WHO-recommended ACTs surged from 4 million treatment doses in 2004 to over 100 million in 2006. However, these life-saving medicines are only reaching 3-5% of vulnerable young children in Africa. Despite the gains in production and distribution, end-user compliance is still a major challenge.

Malaria-related targets are within sight. At this unique moment in history, when dedicated leadership, proven interventions, available resources and collective will have converged to turn the tide against the scourge of malaria, we cannot afford to slow down or permit complacency to dull our resolve.

We are not only concerned about the extent of financial and other resources needed to achieve the targets, but also about the actual impact of this aid – is it reaching those most susceptible to malaria?. Strengthening local health systems and the integration of malaria control interventions in a broader public health approach are critical to long-term success. Moreover, the participation of local communities is essential to ensure that resources provided for the fight against malaria reach the grassroots, where people often lack access to life-saving health tools and the know-how to use them.

We are alarmed that the global financial crisis puts at risk the progress being made. The World Bank estimates that developing countries face a financing gap of \$270-\$700 billion depending on the severity of the crisis and the strength and timing of policy responses. As governments of industrialised countries focus on the impact of the worldwide financial meltdown on their own countries, it is imperative now more than ever to assist the world's most vulnerable.

STOP MALARIA NOW! calls urgently on the German Government to use the historic momentum of the second World Malaria Day to:



- Endorse the Global Malaria Action Plan 2005-2015 of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership as an effective strategy for preventing, controlling and eliminating malaria, and ensure that commitments remain consistent with this strategy.
- Take a lead role in raising awareness about malaria and mobilising political commitment and resources needed to reach the 2010 and MDG targets.
- Increase the commitment to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to fill the current financing gap of USD 5 billion, and show commitment to multilateralism by increasing ODA from 0.38% in 2008 through 0.5% in 2010 to the 0.7% target in 2015.
- Support facilitation of delivery of malaria control tools such as bed-nets, indoor residual spraying and effective antimalarials to the poor and vulnerable and ensure better coordination and collaboration between financial donors to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Continue to support developing countries in building effective health networks and strengthening local health systems capable of delivering services on country, district and community levels.

STOP MALARIA NOW! sincerely hopes that the German Government will show leadership in this area and contribute towards the global move to stop disease-endemic countries from spiralling deeper into poverty and ill-health. In these days of globalisation and the domino effect of the global financial meltdown, the well-being of the entire planet depends on your support.

Yours sincerely,

Antje Mangelsdorf

Coordinator of the STOP MALARIA NOW! campaign

STOP MALARIA NOW! is a consortium of nine health and development NGOs¹ from Europe and Africa. Our aim is to raise public awareness of malaria and mobilize respective support for stronger political, financial and strategic commitments of European governments in order to achieve internationally-agreed malaria-related targets. STOP MALARIA NOW! represents our contribution to global civil society efforts to reduce poverty in line with the MDGs.



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¹ Deutsches Medikamentenhilfswerk action medeor e.V., Federación de Asociaciones Medicus Mundi España, Fundacja Pomocy Humanitarnej „Redemptoris Missio- Medicus Mundi Poland, Eine Welt Netz NRW e.V., Stowarzyszenie Polska Misja Medyczna , Medici con l'Africa Cuamm, Medicus Mundi Italia, Medicines for Malaria Venture, Kenya NGOs Alliance Against Malaria