



Andris Piebalgs
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049, Brussels
Belgium

15 April 2010

Dear Mr Piebalgs,

Malaria threatens half the world's population. The disease continues to kill almost one million people every year, and undermines social growth and development in the poorest countries. It is estimated that Africa spends nearly 40% of all health expenditures on malaria and that the continent loses \$12 billion a year due to the disease. Combating malaria and other diseases is one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty and promote equitable and sustainable economic progress

On 25 April, the international malaria community is commemorating the third World Malaria Day, marking a vital opportunity for the European Union and its member states to scale up measures to reach 2010 malaria Universal Coverage targets and therewith ensuring that 80% of malaria patients are diagnosed and treated within 24 hours of the onset of the illness as well as that the malaria burden is reduced by 50% compared to 2000 rates. This will only be possible through a massive push to implement effective prevention and treatment measures.

Significant progress has been made in the delivery of effective malaria control interventions that have lead to many success stories in the fight against the disease. In countries that have achieved high coverage of Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLINs) and treatment (Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies - ACTs) like Eritrea, Rwanda, Zambia, Zanzibar or Sao Tome e Principe, recorded cases and deaths due to malaria have fallen by 50%. These successes give hope that MDGs and other malaria-related targets can be reached by 2015 if control efforts are sustained.

The improvements made are attributed to a vast increase in international funding for malaria efforts over the past four years, which has more than doubled from \$730 million in 2006 to \$1.7 billion in 2009. The recent jump in funding is large, but not enough. Unless funding continues to increase Universal Coverage targets will not be met in time. According to the Global Malaria Action Plan endorsed in September of 2008 by Global leaders during the UN summit in New York, \$6.2 billion is needed in 2010 alone to fully fund the package of malaria interventions necessary to meet these objectives that will save the lives of children and mothers worldwide.

Data from the World Malaria Report 2009 also shows that only 31% of African households owned an Insecticide -Treated Net and less than 15% of children under five years with fever had received ACTs in 2008. This is both far below the 80% target for 2010.

While much remains to be done it is gratifying to see that the remarkable scale-up in funding for malaria control has resulted in a rapid increase of intervention coverage. This in turn has had a profound effect on health, especially of children and mothers in Sub-Saharan Africa. At this unique moment in history, when dedicated leadership, proven interventions, available resources and collective will have converged to begin to turn the tide against the scourge of malaria, we cannot afford to lose the momentum or permit complacency to dull our resolve.

On the occasion of the third World Malaria Day STOP MALARIA NOW! calls urgently on the European Commission to:

- Increase funding for malaria control interventions in order to meet universal coverage targets by 2010.
- Endorse and support the Global Malaria Action Plan 2010-2015 of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership as an effective strategy for preventing, controlling and eliminating malaria.
- Promote an integrated approach between MDG's 4, 5 and 6 to ultimately strengthen local health systems and community-based health services, integrating services for malaria on the basis of primary health care principles, and investing in the health workforce.
- Ensure full funding of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria through increased financial contributions as well as claim for an evaluation of the effectiveness and efficacy of the Global Fund's work with particular regard to strengthening local health systems and insist that the funds are accessible by civil society organisations particularly at grassroots level.
- Strengthen political and financial support for critical research and development of malaria medicines and prevention technologies such as vaccines and insecticides.
- Support the implementation of the EU Program of Action to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by getting EU Action Teams involved, encouraging other member states to get on board, and ensuring the preparation of an Action Plan beyond 2011.

STOP MALARIA NOW! sincerely hopes that the European Commission and the EU member states 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. Millions of lives can be saved through 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