



**European Commission**  
**Directorate-General Development and Relations with**  
**African, Caribbean and Pacific States**  
**Stefano Manservisi**  
SC-15 00/BIB  
Rue de la Science, 15  
B-1049 Brussels - Belgium

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Dear Mr Manservisi,

Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease that killed almost 800,000 people in 2009 and continues to undermine social growth and development in the poorest countries. The economic burden of malaria for both families and governments take a significant toll, reducing opportunities for economic growth and impacting on household income. With malaria costing Africa an estimated US\$ 12 billion per year in lost GDP and consuming up to 25% of household incomes and 40% of government health spending, reducing and controlling malaria will directly help countries and communities lift themselves out of extreme and chronic poverty.

On 17 October, the international development community is commemorating the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, marking a vital opportunity for the European Union and its member states to scale up efforts to eradicate poverty by addressing the malaria problem and reach the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

**Malaria is both a cause and a consequence of poverty.** According to UN economists, malaria is one of the top four causes of poverty. By eliminating poverty, we could help eliminate the countless deaths caused by malaria. By reducing the mortality and morbidity caused by malaria, we could help people and economies out of the poverty trap.

**Significant progress has been made, but uncertain funding risks progress.** According to a recently published report of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, global malaria deaths have dropped by an estimated 38%, with 43 countries (11 of them in Africa) reducing malaria cases or deaths by 50% or more in the last ten years. International funding for malaria has seen more than a 15-fold increase since 2003, jumping from US\$ 100 million to US\$ 1.5 billion in 2010.

Global action to combat malaria has saved 1.1 billion lives in Africa over the past decade, providing more return on investment than any other public health initiative. Despite these impressive results, most people at risk of malaria still lack sufficient access to critical treatment and prevention options, such as insecticide treated nets, indoor spraying, diagnostic testing, and effective antimalarial drugs, including drugs to treat and prevent malaria in pregnant women.

The biggest risk to progress is the uncertainty of funding. Unless malaria remains high on the global health agenda, the gains achieved can quickly backslide.

On the occasion of International Day to Eradicate Poverty STOP MALARIA NOW! calls urgently on the European Commission to:

- § Prioritize malaria prevention and control as a sustainable and effective way to reduce poverty in endemic countries.
- § Provide adequate, sustained and predictable funding for malaria control.
- § Ensure that people living in poverty are included in the decision-making process, and that concrete action is taken to respond to their needs and demands.
- § Safeguard equity, affordability and accessibility of effective, high-quality antimalarial drugs and health services for poor people.
- § 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.
- § Continue to support developing countries in building effective health networks and strengthening local community and health systems capable of delivering services on country, district and community levels.
- § Increase investment in research and development of new tools to combat malaria. New classes of medicines are urgently needed including pediatric formulations, transmission-blocking drugs and drugs combating resistance.

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 Leyian

Coordinator of the STOP MALARIA NOW! campaign

STOP MALARIA NOW! is a consortium of nine health and development NGOs 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.



STOP MALARIA NOW! is organised with financial assistance of the European European Union. The contents of this letter are the sole responsibility of action medeor e.V. and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.