



November 30, 2008

Dear President-Elect Obama,

The global malaria community congratulates President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect Biden on their victory on November 4th. Their commitment to the fight against malaria is strong and we look forward to working with the new Administration in fulfilling our shared goal of ending malaria deaths by 2015. In this spirit, the malaria community respectfully submits the attached document outlining our priorities for the early days of the new Administration.

We welcome President-elect Obama's pledge to work toward doubling foreign assistance by the end of his first term. This pledge is critical to reaching the 2015 goal. To help meet this pledge, it is imperative that this administration fully fund the US malaria programs as recommended in H.R. 5501, Lantos/ Hyde legislation at Vice President-elect shepherded through the US Senate be fully funded over the next five years. While economic times are difficult, the United States must put itself on the path to fulfilling its commitments and signal to our partners worldwide, both donor and recipient countries, that the United States is unwavering in its commitments to help end the scourge of malaria and reach the Millennium Development Goals. As President-elect Obama stated on September 25th, our country must build upon the life-saving efforts that began through the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative. We must also continue supporting key international partnerships such as the Global Fund to Fight, WHO, AIDS, TB, and Malaria and the World Bank Booster Program for Malaria Control.

We look forward to working with the new Administration as it establishes a Small and Medium Enterprise Fund to assist in local production and development of low cost bed nets for malaria prevention. We also hope to be closely involved in the Health Infrastructure 2020 initiative seeks to improve health systems globally and will lend strength to the fight against malaria, which is a tremendous burden on health systems in malaria endemic countries. In addition, we hope to serve as allies and resources to the new Administration in its efforts to advance malaria research & development, which are critical to the overall fight against malaria.

The members of the malaria roundtable have long been engaged with the malaria fight and agree that the momentum and progress of recent years and the launch of the first ever Global Malaria Action Plan have set the stage for an unprecedented opportunity to combat this deadly disease. As partners in this effort, the malaria roundtable is comprised of implementing agencies and policy organizations, both U.S.-based and international, with a wealth of research and implementation experience in this area. Many have worked closely with the current Malaria Coordinator and served as a resource during the reauthorization and expansion of U.S. malaria control efforts.

In order to signal a strong U.S. commitment to tackling malaria globally, we ask that the new Administration take the following immediate actions in designating a malaria



coordinator, developing a 5-year strategy and significantly funding bi-lateral and multilateral partnership programs. The attached document details these requests.

We hope you will consider us as a resource as you move through the transition. Again, our congratulations and we thank you in advance for your consideration of these early actions to fight malaria.

These recommendations were compiled by the Malaria Roundtable, a coalition of organizations engaged with combating Malaria and convened in Washington, DC by the Global Health Council.

For further information about the Malaria Roundtable or this document, please contact Joanne Manrique at the Global Health Council at jmanrique@globalhealth.org or 202-833-5900, x 3232.

Overview

United States' global health programs are an integral component of meeting US foreign policy and security goals. We welcome the incoming Obama Administration's strong commitment to build upon the success of U.S. malaria control efforts. Investments are truly reaping dividends in terms of lives saved and we are pleased that President-elect Obama is committed to ending malaria deaths by 2015.

Over the last three years, the United States has signaled a strong commitment to combating malaria worldwide through the establishment and implementation of the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). In just three years, this initiative achieved enormous success in sub-Saharan Africa. Established in 2005 as a \$1.2 billion, five-year initiative, this program reached approximately 25 million people with lifesaving prevention or treatment services.

Yet, while great progress is being made, about one million people still die every year of this preventable and treatable disease, mostly young children. Malaria has a tremendous economic impact and leads to an estimated \$12 billion a year in health costs and lost productivity. Worldwide efforts to control the disease were bolstered by the launch of the Global Malaria Action Plan in September 2008.

United States leadership in achieving a malaria-free future must not only continue in the next Administration, but be amplified. We believe that it is critical for the Administration to express its continued leadership in global health to our developing country partners and to the American public during the early days of the transition. The expanded authorities, program targets and policies of the reauthorized legislation (Public Law No: 110-293) that was enacted into law in July 2008, under the leadership of Vice President-elect Biden, should be exercised to the fullest as the starting point for moving forward. Proven and cost-effective interventions can reduce the number of



preventable deaths from malaria and we ask the Administration to fulfill its strong campaign commitment of ending malaria deaths by 2015.

DESIGNATING A MALARIA COORDINATOR DURING THE FIRST 100 DAYS

We urge the Obama Administration to act swiftly in designating a Malaria Coordinator, as called for by P.L. 110-293, Lantos/Hyde Leadership Against AIDS, TB, Malaria Act of 2008.

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative has saved million of lives and is greatly reducing the economic burden of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. It is critical that the Malaria Coordinator continues this success by setting specific goals to reach President-elect Obama's commitment to end malaria deaths by 2015 and carry out the duties of the coordinator as outlined in the legislation. This includes coordinating with other global health initiatives and overall development goals; expanding public-private partnerships in malaria control, including support of President-elect Obama's small and medium-sized enterprise initiative; ensuring coordination of malaria control activities among relevant executive branch agencies; maximizing U.S. capabilities in the areas of technical assistance, training and research, including vaccine research; and establishing priorities and selection criteria for the distribution of resources to combat malaria.

DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A FIVE-YEAR MALARIA STRATEGY

During the first 100 days in office, the President should establish a comprehensive 5-year strategy to significantly reduce global malaria. Early release of this strategy would demonstrate to our international partners that the United States is serious about combating malaria worldwide through clear benchmarks and a timeline. This strategy should be a component of an overall comprehensive US global health strategy to reduce disease burdens and strengthen communities around the world.

In September 2008, Roll Back Malaria Partnership launched the Global Malaria Action Plan (GMAP) that aims to achieve universal coverage for all populations at risk for malaria, echoing the Millennium Development Goals related to malaria. Malaria poses a development challenge and public health risk to not only sub-Saharan Africa, but to Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, and China.

The US malaria strategy should complement and contribute to these ambitious yet achievable targets, by coordinating with national malaria control plans of partner countries and partnering with non-governmental organizations for greatest community impact. The U.S. should maximize its capabilities in the areas of technical assistance, training and education, and research and development. Efforts to expand public-private partnerships and leverage resources are essential components to the strategy, along with coordination of relevant Federal agencies with other international bodies such as the Global Fund, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and the World Bank.



FUNDING MALARIA PROGRAMS

President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

The Obama Administration should build on the original commitments made through the President's Malaria Initiative and through the recent Lantos/Hyde Leadership Act Against AIDS, TB, and Malaria (P.L. 110-293) and ensure that the US is a global leader in providing the necessary resources to eliminate malaria. The current legislation calls for \$5 billion from FY 2009 – FY 2013 for bilateral malaria assistance in addition to pledged contributions to the Global Fund. **As you formulate the FY2010 budget, we seek your support in requesting at least \$800 million for bilateral malaria programs to meet the targets set forth by the Presidential Malaria Initiative.**

USAID Malaria: The non-PMI USAID malaria programs work in countries where PMI is not working, providing a critical complementary support role. Some of the highest-burden, high-mortality countries are the recipients of recent changes within this USAID program. Nigeria, DR Congo, and Southern Sudan are three countries which contribute a hugely disproportionate share of malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa. This budget is about \$100 million per year, and needs to continue at that level or higher for the next several years.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

Since its creation, the Global Fund has approved a total of \$3.7 billion to support 146 malaria grants in 78 countries worldwide. The Global Fund's spending accounts for three-quarters of all malaria funding provided by donors in the world. Through its country-driven process, the Global Fund supports a comprehensive approach for the prevention and treatment of malaria. To date, Global Fund financing has provided malaria treatment to 60 million people and distributed 59 million insecticide-treated nets to protect families from malaria. **We urge you to include a U.S. contribution of \$2.7 billion to the Global Fund in FY 2010.** Based on distribution of funding after seven rounds of grants, a contribution of \$2.7 billion to the Global Fund in FY 2010 would include approximately \$675 million for the fight against malaria.

World Bank

The Booster Program is working with other Roll Back Malaria partners to ensure that African countries have and employ the information and malaria interventions they need to eliminate malaria as a public health threat. The Booster Program has been very successful. More than 21 million LLINs and over 42 million doses of ACT will be distributed under projects funded under Booster Phase I.

Research

Committed U.S. leadership in the fight against malaria is critical at every stage of this effort—from malaria control, to elimination, to eventual eradication. We call upon the U.S. Congress to accelerate the development of new and improved tools to combat malaria in FY 2010, through biomedical and clinical research, by providing:

- The National Institutes of Health with a total budget of \$32.19 billion;



- NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases with at least \$5.07 billion;
- NIH's Fogarty International Center with at least \$73.5 million;
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's malaria programs with \$18 million;
- The U.S. Agency for International Development's malaria programs with an increase in research and development programming proportional to the PMI increase recommended elsewhere in this document; and
- The Department of Defense's malaria programs with a total budget of \$30 million.

We commend the incoming Obama Administration's pledge to provide the resources to end malaria deaths globally by 2015 and helping to meet the Millennium Development Goals for malaria. While we recognize the current fiscal environment is tough, now is not the time to retreat on commitments made to international partners and those whose lives are routinely threatened by malaria. Anything less than the recommended funding will reverse the significant gains already made against malaria and put even more lives at stake.

Sincerely,
The Malaria Roundtable