



AFRICA FIGHTING MALARIA

Annual Report January 2007

1. Introduction

Africa Fighting Malaria (AFM) has received considerable financial support from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund and we take pleasure in submitting this report on our activities during 2005 and 2006. We also respectfully submit a request for continued funding so that we may maintain our activities in southern Africa and elsewhere.

This report describes AFM, outlines our achievement in 2005/06, and gives a breakdown of our funding and funding requirements. Selected publications are enclosed in Annex A to this report.

2. About Africa Fighting Malaria

Africa Fighting Malaria (AFM) was formed as a Section 21 (non-profit) company in South Africa in May 2000 and as a 501 (c)(3) (non-profit) in the United States in June 2003. The founding purpose of the organisation was to conduct research into the social and economic aspects of malaria and raise the profile of the disease and the issues surrounding its control in the local and international media.

AFM continues to carry out its core mission, while expanding its scope to research, write and comment on other healthcare issues, including AIDS policy, the debate over access to essential medicines and the protection of intellectual property rights, and water rights. AFM's participation in international conferences, its media successes and its efforts to influence government policy have added to the debate and discourse on these crucially important topics.

AFM's board consists of Dr Roger Bate, Professor Don Roberts and Mr Richard Tren. Jasson Urbach has been appointed as a director of AFM in South Africa and has taken on a greater share of AFM's work in the region. In early 2006, Richard Tren moved to Washington DC to work more closely with our partners in the US and to increase our advocacy efforts in the US. Philip Coticelli was hired in June 2006 to undertake research, advocacy and communications work toward these ends. The importance of influencing public health policy in the US should not be underestimated. As we describe below, Richard's move to the US has yielded some very significant benefits to AFM's work and has strengthened our organisation in South Africa as well.

As AFM is a small organisation, we have not required a larger board. However we have approached Lance Laifer, a New York City based financier, to be a board member. Mr Laifer has devoted a considerable amount of his time, energy and finances to fighting malaria, and his 'Hedge Funds vs. Malaria' venture has raised a considerable amount of money for malaria control activities in West Africa. Mr Laifer has accepted our invitation, which will be formally agreed at a board meeting in December 2006. We feel that his energy, ideas and enthusiasm will be of great benefit to AFM.

Our advisory board assists AFM in developing strategies and in advising on specific issues from time to time.

Committee Member	Affiliation	Country
Dr. Amir Attaran	University of Ottawa	Canada
Prof. Maureen Coetzee	National Health Laboratory Services	South Africa
Prof. Wen Kilama	African Malaria Vaccine Testing Network	Tanzania
Dr. Rajendra Maharaj	South African Medical Research Council	South Africa
Prof. Don Roberts	Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences	USA
Dr. Brian Sharp	South African Medical Research Council	South Africa

3. Achievements in 2005/06

2006 has been an exciting and highly successful year for AFM. For many years, AFM has advocated for indoor residual spraying (IRS) including the use of DDT. In September 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that it was specifically promoting IRS and the use of DDT, a reversal of many years of institutional opposition to the use of insecticides in disease control. In addition, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that it would give direct support to IRS programs and would purchase DDT for those countries that wish to use it. USAID is now funding IRS in several countries, and for the first time in over a decade has purchased DDT for the government of Zambia. It has plans to finance DDT for malaria control in several other African countries in FY2007.

In addition to the financing of DDT, AFM's activities in 2005 and 2006 in conjunction with Senator Tom Coburn and other members of the US Congress have contributed significantly to unprecedented reforms made to USAID's malaria control program. This includes the launching of the President's Malaria Initiative, a \$1.2 billion initiative aimed

at halving malaria-related deaths in 15 African countries over the next decade. The new initiative notably includes IRS, and is focused on measurable outcomes, transparency and accountability for results. Shortly after the announcement of this program, USAID announced various reforms to its regular program funding along the same lines, including funding fewer advice-giving programs and more life-saving malaria control commodities such as effective drugs, bed nets and sprays. These changes very closely mirrored those called for in an AFM network campaign called, “Kill Malarial Mosquitoes Now!” AFM is confident that the advocacy and research that we have conducted on IRS, as well as our consistent work with malaria scientists, malaria control program managers and policy-makers have contributed significantly to these policy changes.

AFM has continued to work with allies in the United States, Europe and Africa in order to achieve its mission. We have published several influential research papers, have continued to publish pieces in the popular media and have maintained and improved our relationship with journalists, experts and policymakers around the world. Our website has been redesigned to reflect the growing scope of our work. We have begun a regular newsletter service for approximately a thousand recipients, and the list continues to grow. Both outlets provide an important source for information on malaria control and various aspects of the disease. We detail some of the specific activities that we have been involved in below.

3.1 Publications and Research

In 2006, AFM published several papers in conjunction with the Washington DC based think tank, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). These publications covered various healthcare related topics. In March 2006, we published a paper on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and access to essential medicines, and in May 2006, we published a paper on the development of new treatments for so-called neglected diseases.

In April 2005, AFM published a paper with the AEI-Brookings Joint Centre on the impact of import tariffs and taxes on access to medicines. In 2006 we updated this paper to include the effect of corruption and bureaucratic delays on access to medicines. Both of these factors are a direct consequence of import tariffs and the discretionary power that is given to customs officials. AFM continues to campaign for the removal of import tariffs and the elimination of sales taxes on essential medicines and diagnostics.

In April 2006, AFM’s Roger Bate co-authored a study in the Lancet, a British medical journal, on the World Bank’s failures on malaria control. The study covered programs that financed inappropriate anti-malaria drugs, project evaluations that spuriously claimed progress in reducing the incidence of malaria, failures to commit funding previously promised to malaria control, reduction in staff dedicated to malaria control programs, the reduction in the number of countries where the Bank supported malaria control, and the Bank’s ongoing reticence to support the use of DDT with IRS programs.

In the summer of 2006, AFM completed its research into the privately funded malaria control program run by Konkola Copper Mines in Zambia. This highly successful

malaria control project is important for several reasons. It is largely based on the careful use of DDT in IRS, something that AFM has long defended and campaigned for. In addition, the KCM project is an excellent example of how the private sector can be involved in malaria control and can privately fund a public health program. Most private companies and donors prefer to simply distribute insecticide treated nets, which while effective in personal protection, have to date been less than successful in community-wide malaria control programs. We await revisions and comments from peer reviewers.

2005 saw AEI and AFM publish an influential research paper on USAID's malaria control program. This publication was used extensively in Congressional hearings, and formed the basis for widespread reforms to USAID's malaria control program. In 2006, we reviewed the reforms at USAID and published a research paper detailing and assessing the success of the reforms. This covered the initial successes achieved by the President's Malaria Initiative, which began operations in 2006 in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda. Notable reforms to this program and USAID's malaria control program generally, or which AFM had long advocated, were the financing of IRS programs with DDT and other insecticides, spending less money on advice-giving programs and more money on malaria control commodities, measuring baseline rates of malaria incidence and burden and performing more rigorous program evaluations.

In South Africa, AFM's Jasson Urbach contributed to a report entitled Civil Society Report on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Health published by the International Policy Network. The report was a collaborative effort of 16 civil society groups, which analysed the relationship between intellectual property, innovation and health. The report was released ahead of the WHO's report entitled: Commission on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Public Health. Jasson attended the World Health Assembly in May in Geneva and presented at an influential panel discussion on healthcare reforms and medicine pricing.

3.2 Media coverage

As in 2005, AFM continued to place articles and letters in the South African and international press. Among others, the publications include *Business Day*, *TCS Daily*, *Washington Times*, *Washington Post*, *CBS.com*, *National Review Online*, and *Mail & Guardian*. We believe there is great value in influencing public opinion through the media and in improving the understanding of malaria control and the many issues that public health programs face in poor countries.

AFM has continued to be a resource for the electronic media. Richard Tren, Jasson Urbach, Roger Bate and Philip Coticelli have appeared on radio and television programs in Africa, Europe and the US, including SABC, SABC Africa, The BBC World Service, Voice of America Television, BBC Radio 4, German National Public Radio, and Gallup in the US, as well as local radio stations such as Radio 702 and Cape Talk in South Africa.

Table 1 Selected Press Coverage

Title	Publication	Author	Date
Deadly Mosquito Standoff	Washington Times	Roger Bate	21-10-2005
Let DDT take care of malaria scourge	Business Day	Richard Tren & Philip Coticelli	08-11-2005
How DDT can stop millions of malaria deaths	Mail & Guardian	Richard Tren & Philip Coticelli	09-11-2005
Africa's economic fate in its own hands	Business Day	Richard Tren & Jasson Urbach	13-12-2005
South Africa's Good News on AIDS	TCS Daily	Roger Bate	20-12-2005
Fighting Malaria – the right way	The Examiner	Roger Bate	09-01-2006
Goldilocks Pricing	TCS Daily	Richard Tren & Roger Bate	27-02-2006
Taxed to Death	Bangkok Post	Roger Bate	02-03-2006
When High Taxes Kill	Union Leader	Roger Bate	11-03-2006
Remove Medical Tariffs	Wall Street Journal Asia	Roger Bate & Jim Driscoll	27-02-2006
Malaria Scores a Three-Pointer	TCS Daily	Roger Bate	17-03-2006
Europe Hinders War on Malaria	Business Day	Richard Tren	24-04-2006
Sickening Incompetence	CBS.com	Philip Coticelli & Justin Schwab	29-04-2006
The World Bank and Disease Control: a Bad Combination	The World Bank	Roger Bate	03-05-2006
Amir Attaran and Roger Bate: Sick at the World Bank	The Examiner	Roger Bate & Amir Attaran	19-05-2006
SA's chronic shortage of healthcare professionals	Agri-SA	Jasson Urbach	15-06-2006
Govt intervention ruins health services	MoneyWeb	Jasson Urbach	16-06-2006
Limiting foreign doctors will worsen chronic shortages	Daily Dispatch	Jasson Urbach	19-06-2006
Private health care is the key to better services for all	Cape Times	Jasson Urbach	29-06-2006
Taxed to Death	Foreign Policy	Roger Bate	06-07-2006
Rethinking the war on malaria	Daily Dispatch	Jasson Urbach	06-07-2006
Much maligned DDT has key role in battling malaria	Cape Times	Jasson Urbach	10-07-2006
Africa Fighting Malaria Responds To Berkeley University Study Into DDT And Neurodevelopment In Children	Medical News Today	Richard Tren	18-07-2006
Bill Gates must set priorities	The Australian	Roger Bate	03-08-2006
"Water ,water everywhere, but..."	Tech Central Station	Roger Bate	03-08-2006
Tariffs, corruption and other impediments to medical access in developing countries: Field evidence	Medical News Today	Richard Tren	06-08-2006
A Transparently Terrific Bill	Washington Post	Roger Bate	08-08-2006
Drug Snares	National Review Online	Roger Bate & Kathryn Boateng	09-08-2006
Medicine tariffs: how they cost lives	Business Day	Richard Tren	10-08-2006
No scientific proof that use of DDT is dangerous	East Africa Standard	Philip Coticelli	20-08-2006
Is there hope for Zimbabwe?	Daily Dispatch	Jasson Urbach	28-08-2006
Light at end of malaria tunnel	Business Day	Richard Tren	18-09-2006

Malaria: No Time to Pass the Buck	Business Day	Richard Tren	22-11-2006
Stopping medical tariffs, cutting corruption are mission impossible	Examiner	Roger Bate and Kathryn Boateng	24-11-2006
WHO's comprehensive HIV treatment failure	Medical News today	Roger Bate	01-12-2006
SADC ministers prepare to fight a killer	South African Department of Health Media Room	Jasson Urbach	09-12-2006
Malaria Initiative Progresses	Washington Times	Roger Bate	14-12-2006
USAID's Health Challenge: Improving US Foreign Assistance	Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine	Roger Bate	01-01-2007

3.3 Website

AFM regularly updates its website, www.fightingmalaria.org, with commentary, news and statistics. AFM's website continues to be a valuable resource for journalists, researchers and students, and we receive a great deal of feedback and commentary resulting from our web publications. We have developed a newsletter service with over one thousand subscribers to widely disseminate our advocacy work and raise the profile of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. AFM is currently working with a DC-based web design company to launch a revamped site in January, 2007.

3.4 Conferences, hearings and outreach

During 2005/06, AFM has continued to present papers at conferences and to participate in workshops and discussions in Africa, Europe and the US. These conferences, meetings and workshops are critical in advancing AFM's aims of better malaria control and improving global understanding of malaria control and development policy.

In November 2005, Richard Tren and Jasson Urbach attended the South African Development Community Annual Malaria Review and Planning meeting held in Ingwavuma, South Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to review the various malaria control measures adopted by the Southern African member countries and to strengthen existing cross border initiatives.

In January 2006, AFM played a pivotal role in a US Senate Subcommittee Hearing on malaria control chaired by Senator Tom Coburn. AFM paid for the director of the Swaziland malaria control program, Simon Kunene, to testify before the US Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security. This hearing proved highly influential in sustaining the momentum for reforms in the US Government's policies towards malaria control in developing countries.

In April 2006, Richard Tren presented at a hearing in Uganda on DDT for IRS. The hearing, which was chaired by the Ugandan Minister of Health, included several Members of Parliament and various public health experts. Recently Uganda chose to adopt IRS programs using DDT, due largely to AFM's advocacy efforts.

In May 2006, Jasson Urbach attended the World Health Assembly in Geneva. On the eve of the World Health Assembly's annual meeting Jasson presented a paper on access to medicines in South Africa. This presentation was part of a wider seminar hosted by The International Policy Network. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the findings of a recent publication entitled: Civil Society Report on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Health. Speakers on the panel included: Bibek Debroy from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India; Barun Mitra from the Liberty Institute in India; Philip Stevens from International Policy Network in the United Kingdom, and Jasson Urbach from Africa Fighting Malaria.

In June 2006, Jasson Urbach presented a brief synopsis of AFM's activities in 2005/06 at the South African national Department of Health's annual Malaria Review and Planning Meeting held in Rustenberg, South Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to review malaria strategies at a provincial level in South Africa.

In July 2006, Richard Tren testified before the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and the use of DDT. The hearing was held in the UK House of Commons and attended by both Members of Parliament and the House of Lords. Richard presented in favour of DDT, along side Professor Chris Curtis of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

In August 2006, Jasson Urbach attended the East and Southern Africa Joint Annual Consultation and Planning Meeting, held in Harare, Zimbabwe. A detailed report of the meeting compiled by Jasson can be found on AFM's website.

In August 2006, Richard Tren attended the International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada. Richard was invited to attend by several AIDS activist groups to build partnerships in with other advocacy groups towards removing import tariffs on medicines and medical devices. The Conference also featured a special session on malaria that was hosted by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the WHO.

In September 2006, Richard Tren presented at the International AIDS Vaccine Conference, in Amsterdam. Richard was invited to present at a special session on logistics. This conference was an important step in building wider networks and partners in our campaign to remove the harmful tariffs and taxes that restrict access to medicine.

In September 2006, Richard Tren was called by the World Health Organization to appear as an IRS and malaria control expert at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on WHO's revised IRS guidelines, including the promotion of DDT. Richard fielded questions from various US and international mainstream media reporters and was quoted by various influential media groups, including the BBC and the Associated Press Group.

Also in September, AFM co-sponsored a US Congressional briefing on malaria. The event was held in the House of Representatives office building on Capitol Hill in

Washington, D.C. It was hosted by Representative Barbara Lee and featured a variety of speakers from USAID, the WHO and the private sector. The event was well attended and included many prominent and influential policy makers.

In November 2006, AFM delivered a Thank You Card to key members of the US Senate and House of Representatives who prioritized malaria control in 2006. Top honours went to Senators Tom Coburn and Sam Brownback for holding donors accountable to effective malaria control financing. Foreign Operations appropriators were also recognized along with champions for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Africa Fighting Malaria has been working closely with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in Uganda and instituted an AFM fellowship in that country. CORE and AFM's first AFM Fellow, Carlos Odora have developed a good working relationship with the Ministry of Health and has been instrumental in linking the agricultural sector, which could be affected by DDT use in malaria control, and the public health community.

In November, the Ugandan National Environment Management Authority held a public hearing to air views in favour and against the use of DDT in malaria control. Richard Tren attended the hearing and made a presentation in favour of DDT. CORE and Carlos Odora also made presentations during the daylong hearing. In January 2006, the National Environment Management Authority ruled that DDT could be used for malaria control, in line with WHO guidelines and restrictions.

AFM along with our Ugandan partners initiated a DDT and agriculture working group discussion forum, which we anticipate will assist the Ministry of Health and the Ugandan public health community to use DDT responsibly so as to reduce the burden of malaria without affecting agricultural exports through any contamination with the insecticide.

In December 2006, Richard Tren was invited to participate in the inaugural meeting of the World Health Organization's Indoor Residual Spraying Working Group. AFM board member, Prof Don Roberts, chaired the Working Group and Richard Tren presented a paper on IRS advocacy. AFM welcomes the opportunity to work with the WHO and with other public health experts to help enact the changes in WHO policy around the world.

Finally, since relocating to Washington, D.C. in early 2006, Richard Tren has contributed substantially to the development of an American malaria advocacy community. Working closely with the WHO, Results, Global Justice, Global Action for Children, Friends of the Global Fight, the UN Foundation, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and other key constituency representatives, Richard has ensured that IRS is included in communications and advocacy work undertaken by the group. His storied history in malaria control has made him a trusted and valued member of this growing community. AFM meets regularly with these and other partners at a Malaria Roundtable organized by the Global Health Council.

4. AFM's anticipated activities for 2007.

2006 has been an important year for malaria control. The changes in WHO's policy towards IRS, and USAID's commitment to fund IRS has provided increased opportunities for malaria control programs and malaria scientists to reduce the burden of this disease. However, there are many challenges that malaria control programs now face in order to effect these changes and to sustain improvements in malaria control. The decision to return to IRS is based on sound scientific evidence and is justified by the experience of several countries in Africa. However, most donors have discouraged IRS for decades, largely eliminating the requisite skills, expertise and experience.

The World Health Organization has committed itself to supporting IRS programs with technical expertise. AFM has been invited by the WHO to be a member of its IRS working group, which consists of malaria program managers, the major funding agencies, malaria scientists and the WHO itself. AFM's role is to provide advocacy support at both a national and international level in favor of IRS and to continue its role in defending the use of DDT.

Despite the firm position taken by the WHO in promoting IRS and in recommending DDT for malaria control, a great deal of opposition persists. In part this opposition arises from environmentalists groups that, in spite of the evidence to the contrary, consistently claim that the potential risks from the chemical outweigh the proven benefits of its use.

Opposition persists from manufacturers of alternative methods of malaria control, such as the manufacturers of insecticide treated nets (ITNs). While AFM consistently advocates for all proven methods of malaria control, including ITNs, there is a faction within the malaria control community that vehemently oppose IRS, in part because of their perception that it will undermine their ITN efforts. AFM will work towards building greater consensus and support from within the malaria community for IRS.

In some countries, particularly the East African countries of Uganda and Kenya, there is concern from the agricultural export sectors that any use of DDT in malaria control will result in contamination of their crops and their subsequent rejection from export markets in Europe. While we would stress that DDT is sprayed inside houses and that in most countries that use DDT, the Ministry of Health exerts strict controls over its use, the fears of the agricultural sector are not trivial (in some countries, certain crops are stored indoors for drying and protection) and should be taken seriously. AFM will work towards better understanding and cooperation between these two groups.

Of the various health advocacy groups based in the US, AFM is the only group that has consistently worked towards achieving greater transparency and accountability from the major funding agencies involved in malaria control. AFM has also insisted on improved monitoring and evaluation of malaria control programs so that donors (and the taxpayers that fund them) will know if funds are being used successfully or not. Although it would be an obvious requirement of private donors, few public donor or UN agencies measure whether or not their efforts in malaria control have been successful.

AFM is working with partners in WHO and the malaria research community to change this situation. It is largely because of AFM's efforts, that USAID's lead malaria program, the President's Malaria Initiative, has published details of its malaria control contracts and has gone further than any other funding agency or any other division of USAID to being open and transparent about how it spends taxpayer's money and has included monitoring and evaluation components to its plans. In 2007, AFM will continue this work, maintaining the pressure on USAID to be transparent and will expand these efforts to other agencies such as the World Bank and other G8 bilateral donor agencies.

With improved malaria control policies and better performance from some donor agencies, AFM is determined to ensure sustained and improved funding for successful malaria control programs. AFM has been working with partner advocacy groups in Washington DC to ensure that successful malaria control programs receive the funding they deserve.

AFM will continue to work in South Africa, the United States and with its partners in UK, Uganda and elsewhere to promote the adoption of sound, scientifically based interventions for malaria control. This entails maintaining strong links and communication with the scientific community and with malaria control program managers. To this end we will continue to translate the information we gather concerning scientific evidence and feedback from the field on the best available procedures to the popular media and legislators in the US and elsewhere. AFM has built up a good relationship with journalists within the print and electronic media and we endeavour to continue and strengthen these relationships. In the past, this has provided an excellent way of exposing issues and getting both public and private agencies to deal with concerns that we may have. AFM will continue to build up our relationship with the scientific community and we will use our position in the WHO's IRS working group to improve our advocacy messages and make sure that we reflect the scientific and programmatic agenda.

In our efforts to improve the scientific evaluation of DDT for malaria control, we are close to completing our book on DDT. This book was originally due to be published in 2006, however given the changes to malaria control policies during the year, we have updated the manuscript and plan to publish the book in the first half of 2007.

In December 2006, AFM initiated and chaired a working group of agricultural exporters (including coffee, tobacco, fish and honey exporters) in Uganda in order to improve their understanding of IRS and DDT and to create a link between the public health community and the agricultural sector. AFM would like to continue and expand these working groups in other countries. AFM has already set up a partnership with a Ugandan advocacy group to continue this work and we anticipate AFM staff will attend several of these working group meetings every year in order to assist with the proper and judicious use of DDT for malaria control.

AFM will continue to work closely with the WHO offices in Geneva, Washington DC and the Africa region. Over the years, we have built up a valuable and trusted working relationship with allies within the WHO.

For several years, AFM has worked closely with think tanks in the US, Europe, Africa and India. By collaborating with these groups, we have been able to leverage our work significantly and reach far wider audiences that we would otherwise be able to do. We will continue to work with organizations such as the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC and the Inter Region Economic Network in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as many others in order to broadcast our messages and ideas to a broader audience.

In order to sustain and improve malaria control, or indeed in any other disease control program, malarial countries will need to improve their health systems. Achieving this long-term goal will require some changes in the way that donors fund programs. For instance, we believe that the World Bank has a comparative advantage in health financing and health systems, and yet it maintains a specific malaria control program. While AFM does not wish to see the World Bank's resources lost to malaria control, we feel there is an urgent need for improved coordination and complementarity between malaria control programs so as to minimize the waste and duplication that is often a feature of donor funded projects. AFM, along with partner organizations, has been engaged in the wider debate on how donors should structure their disease control programs. AFM will continue this analysis and will continue to contribute to the debate so that there are increased funds available for malaria control and that funding is put to the very best use.

In early 2007 we plan to release an analytical performance scorecard measuring the effectiveness of donor assistance provided by large developed country donors. As alluded to previously, it is important for public donor agencies to not only provide funding but to measure the performance of their funds in terms of tangible reductions in malarial morbidity and mortality rates. A further study also planned for release in early 2007 aims to provide insight into the core functions and roles of large multilateral donor agencies. The purpose of this study is provide insight into future policy recommendations based on issues that have proven track records.

5. Summary

2005/06 was a highly successful year for AFM. With the changes in policy announced by the WHO and by USAID, one of the major campaigns that we have run for several years came to fruition. Now however, we face the ongoing task of assisting our partners in WHO and the malaria control programs in Africa to implement these new policies effectively.

In the upcoming year, we intend to build on our successes and to work more effectively with partners in Africa, Europe and the US.

ANNEX A

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS