



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE

60 Revere Drive, Suite 500
Northbrook, IL 60062 U.S.A.
847/480-9592
FAX 847/480-9282
astmh@astmh.org
www.astmh.org

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund) 1st Session, 111th Congress (2009) Issue Brief

The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) – the nation’s leading professional organization for tropical medicine – represents 3,300 researchers and clinicians engaged in the battle against infectious and tropical disease, both in the United States and internationally. ASTMH promotes world health through research and education to prevent and control tropical diseases.

As part of our efforts, we advocate implementation and funding of federal policies and programs that seek to reduce, prevent, and control myriad infectious tropical diseases, including, but not limited to, malaria, Dengue fever, Ebola, cholera, and tuberculosis.

For the 1st Session of the 111th Congress (2009), our public policy efforts are focused principally on issues related to malaria control. As such, ASTMH calls upon Congress and the Administration to increase the United States’ voluntary contribution to the malaria programs supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund), and to work collaboratively with other national and private donors to the Global Fund to support the unique and invaluable role of the Fund.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund)

The Global Fund is supported by a partnership among governments, civil society, the private sector, and affected communities, with the goal of dramatically increasing the available resources to fight three of the world’s most devastating diseases. Since 2001, the Global Fund has attracted \$19 billion in pledges through 2015. It presently has committed \$10.2 billion in grants to support 579 programs in 137 countries. The Global Fund has already distributed 70 million insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs) to protect families from transmission of malaria, and 74 million malaria drug treatments.

The Global Fund has become not only the largest financier of malaria control globally, but also has developed a unique performance-based funding model that supports national partnership to manage programming and assume accountability for results. To support long-term success of malaria control efforts, countries in which the Global Fund works must be partners in these endeavors; such collaboration will help ensure that lessons are learned from the experience and internal capacity is developed to sustain these efforts.

What is Malaria?

- Malaria is an acute and often fatal disease caused by a single-celled parasite that is transmitted to humans by the female *Anopheles* mosquito, and can cause anemia, jaundice, kidney failure, and death. Despite being treatable and preventable, malaria is one of the leading causes of death and disease worldwide.
- Malaria is a global health emergency that primarily affects children under the age of five in Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates there were 350 to 500 million malaria cases in 2000 and at least one million deaths from malaria. WHO estimates that one half of the world's people are at risk for malaria, and that 109 countries are endemic for malaria.
- Malaria-related illness and mortality not only takes a human toll, but also severely impacts economic productivity and growth. The WHO has estimated that malaria reduces Africa's economic growth by up to 1.3 percent per year.
- Malaria is highly treatable and preventable. The tragedy is that despite this, malaria is one of the leading causes of death and disease worldwide. Defeating malaria will almost certainly require new and more effective interventions, as well as improved delivery infrastructures.

FY 2010 Funding for Global Fund for Malaria Programming

ASTMH maintains that it is incumbent upon the United States, as the wealthiest country in the world and the leading contributor to the Global Fund, to exercise leadership and significantly increase its funding for the Global Fund and its malaria programs.

As such, ASTMH urges Congress and the Administration to increase the United States' FY 2010 voluntary contribution to the Global Fund to \$2.7 billion. This allocation should be separate and above funding for bilateral malaria programs, including the President's Malaria Initiative, which should be funded at \$800 million in FY 2010. These two separate allocations together are essential to the world-wide fight against malaria.