

April 5, 2007

DPI/NGO BRIEFING ON COMBATING MALARIA

Thursday, April 5, 2007, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Background Information:

This briefing looked at the current efforts to combat malaria including The “Roll Back Malaria Campaign” and the “Nothing But Nets Initiative”. Malaria kills three million people worldwide each year. This is mostly young children in Africa especially those in remote rural areas with poor access to health services. Are any of these efforts to combat this having any impact? What more needs to be done? What and how can civil society do to assist? These and other questions were addressed by the panelists.

Moderator:

Juan Carlos Brandt, Co-Chair, DPI/NGO

Speakers:

Dr. Renee Van de Weerd, Senior Advisor to Child Survival,
United Nations Children’s Fund

Ms. Katharine Miller, Director of the United Nations Foundation

Mr. Todd Jacobson, Senior Director of Community Relations,
NBA Cares/WNBA Cares

1. Before the presentations by each of the speakers, IRIN presented a movie a movie “Malaria: Killer Number One”. This was a video on the challenges and impact of malaria in Ethiopia. This showed the children there. One hundred thousand people die of malaria in the world mostly in Africa.

There is only one health worker there for ten thousand people. The houses there are filled with patients, (children and mothers). The film showed how each health worker tried to help those in need. The movie showed the typical symptoms among children with malaria. The major problem is the dirty water which is the only water available.

The United Nations has started a global malaria fight to eliminate or minimize it by 2015. The film showed examples of the malaria insects and the limitations of the anti-malaria efforts in Africa. New drugs that are now available are very expensive and cannot keep up with the malaria cases.

Pregnant women and children in Africa are treated first to combat the malaria. Because of the malaria workers there are too weak to harvest needed food. In one district in Ethiopia one health worker has to try to help ten thousand people. Ethiopia is one of the most critical areas there and lacks the funds needed to fight the disease and help the affected people there. Their biggest problem is the shortage of drugs.

Malaria and Aids are the biggest problem for many. There is only one hospital for one million people. UNICEF and the World Health Organization in the area try to help. Because of the disease malnutrition is a wide problem there. Seventeen million treated nets are needed to fight the mosquitoes carrying the disease. Draining and/or eliminating water can fight/prevent malaria but farmers are afraid that their animals will lack water.

2. The Moderator, Juan Carlos Brandt, welcomed everyone and introduced each of the speakers with their backgrounds.

3. The first speaker, Dr. Renee Van de Weerd, has worked for the World Health Organization. He showed what the malaria burden was. One hundred and Seven countries affected with the disease. Ninety percent is in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Weerd outlined principal causes of deaths there.

He indicated that malaria is both preventable and treatable. One way to prevent diseases was by sleeping under a treated net. Half of the children in Africa are now being treated with anti-malaria drugs.

By the end of 2004 twenty-two countries adopted and had begun to implement home management for U5s there. Between 2005 to 2007, twenty-five million drugs to fight the disease have been distributed there. UNICEF is an active member of the RPM working groups and the RPM Malaria Epidemiological Reference Group.

In 2006, UNICEF procured and distributed twenty-five million ITMs – the majority to pregnant women and children. There are highly effective tools available but money for them are lacking. He ended by giving examples of how his organization is trying to raise the awareness in and working with the affected communities.

4. The second speaker, Ms. Miller, has over fifteen years of experience in Corporate Directorships. She indicated that the United Nations Foundation Was founded ten years ago to try to solve the worlds' problems such as malaria and provide disease control. She indicated that their efforts resulted in a sixty percent reduction in disease.

She gave examples of how they raised almost 4.5 to 5 million dollars in donations of ten dollars each. Many organizations came to the table to help by matching all the donations dollar by dollar. This resulted from a very simple message to the American people “Malaria Kills”. She stated that they expect that by the end of 2007 – 2008 a half a million medicines will be needed.

5. The third speaker, Mr. Todd Jacobson, has many years experience with the NBA and their support for these programs. Their mission was to provide Long lasting insecticide treated bed nets. Their goal over the next two years “Nothing But Nets” working with the measles initiatives to supply bed nets for distribution to all children in Africa under five years of age.

The NBA have raised over 4.5 million dollars for this effort. Mr. Jacobson showed how the nets are used. Another partner in their effort is Exxon-Mobile. These nets protect children for up to four years.

Mr. Jacobson outlined the following Grass Roots Events and Activities;

- NBA Store Event helps cover Africa
- Team in Arena Awareness Nights
- 2007 NBA All Star

He indicated that they generate awareness by;

- NBA Spokespeople
- PSA Campaign
- NBA Broadcasts
- NBA Assets, they reach two million per day average

They are supporting their fund raising efforts by;

- NET raiser teams
- In arena fund raising elements
- NBA store
- 2007 NBA Jan Session, raised 140 thousand dollars on this weekend

The distribution of the Bed-Nets;

- January, 2007 Nigeria and Angola
- Basketball Without Borders in Africa by September, 2007

5. Questions/Answers:

5.1 Mr. Todd Jacobson; In different major cities in China, the NBA are supporting Children's activities. In China they partner with the China Federation there. Basketball is now the number two sport in China. He indicated that in the next five years they expect to see a lot more there.

5.2 Mr. Todd Jacobson; The NBA has been successful with UNICEF on basketball. They are working with Economic Forum at the United Nations to do a better job.

5.3 Dr. Renee Van de Weerd; The problem in Africa is that the mosquitoes are present there only at night.

5.4 Dr. Renee Van de Weerd; It is not that easy to get rid of swamps. Their elimination would effect agriculture. For that reason they have concentrated to get rid of bites (i.e. Nets).

5.5 Dr. Renee Van de Weerd; The nets when purchased are already treated with insecticide.

5.6 Ms. Katharine Miller; The message to these people on malaria must be very Simple. Long lasting nets there have been the key to success.

5.7 Dr. Renee Van de Weerd; When ACTs first came out there was only one country with qualified ACTs. Now there are more manufacturers however we still need more there.

5.8 Ms. Katharine Miller; The people driving the campaign against malaria now come from all over the world.

5.9 Dr. Renee Van de Weerd; We learned from the polio initiative on how to combat and treat malaria.

5.10 Ms. Katharine Miller; In Zambia we found that by putting information in a simpler computer format to that country and this is how we found what drugs were lacking. Partnerships are critical especially learning from other initiatives.

5.11 Dr. Renee Van de Weerd; The first disease they fear is malaria. We must also help these countries in Africa to be ready for Global Warming, their impact and how to be ready to combat it.

5. Questions/Answers (Cont'd):

5.12 Moderator Juan Carlos Brandt; Global Warming is now on the Security Council agenda as critical.

5.13 Dr. Renne Van de Weerd; ACTs were discussed initially in China and now fights diseases better there. Other single drugs only have a short life in the body. This is where ACTs are better. There are no short term effects. There is no data on long term effects.

5.14 Dr. Renee Van de Weedt; The use of high strength garlic was found to combat mosquitoes. It will work with NJCs. Hospitals are going to see about this.

INTERNET SUB-COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 5, 2007, 1:00 PM – 3: PM

Moderator:

Mr. William Gellermann, Chair.

1. Mr. Gellermann welcomed everyone. He asked the question as to how we can spread the word on the problem of Global Warming? He indicated that we can use the Web site. We can also use college and high school students to also spread this knowledge. The problem we have is that newspapers and television in the United States include very little on the United Nations and their activities.

2. We all agreed that getting the word out on Global Warming is very important. Students in colleges can arraign sessions with prominent speakers on the subject.

3. Mr. Gellermann indicated that the United States and India have renewed their agreement on environment cooperation. This should also be web sited for review by all people. They may do the same.

4. New Jersey is starting sessions in Newark on April 20, 2007 on the Global Warming change and what other states can do. Religious leaders are planning to have a summit on the Global Warming to discuss the issue. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will be attending the April 20th session being held in Newark. This could be taped and for our planned Web site.

5. A Web cast test run was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2007, with good results. However we need more tests to clean up. This was done at Rutgers. We have to determine how many participants can get on the Web site at the same time.

6. I mentioned how the Jewish War Veterans use teleconferencing and their two Web sites nationally with great success. I recommended that we at the United Nations can use teleconferencing to facilitate the Web site in the same way.

7. Mr. Gellermann stated that we need to generate a list of available possibilities. We also need to inform people of the list. For this task we can use college students. We must encourage people to use the list of available possibilities and the Web site.

8. Each organization represented by NGOs must send information on this subject to their members asking them to spread this word. We all agreed that a Moderator has to control and filter the Web site but should not censor comments.

9. The value of this effort will be to encourage the flow of communication but not discourage it. The prime purpose of the Web site is to increase a peoples' desire and ability to communicate. This will serve to establish a moderating process. At the start of each Web site an agenda must be presented.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 5, 2007, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Moderator:

Richard Jordan, Co-Chair.

He welcomed everyone and introduced co-chair Juan Carlos Brandt, DPI Representative Robin Delta Rocca and MS. Diana Zulueta, International Program Manager of UNA/DR.

Minutes of this meeting are on the following pages.

PDC George Weinstein
National UN Chairman