



German Foundation for  
World Population (DSW)

// EUROPEAN ALLIANCE AGAINST **MALARIA**  
Working for a malaria-free world

**PRESS**

First World Malaria Day 2008

## **German Foundation for World Population calls for improved malaria aid effectiveness**

### **“European Commission must act immediately”**

*Brussels, April 24th 2008.* The German Foundation for World Population (DSW) as part of the European Alliance Against Malaria (EAAM) calls upon the European Commission to improve the effectiveness of its aid for malaria. Two-thirds of international funding for malaria control is now channelled *via* the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Providing 55 percent of Global Fund contributions, the European Union is a major contributor. Disbursement of this funding, however, is hampered by a lack of technical assistance for malaria. On the occasion of World Malaria Day (April 25), DSW calls upon the European Commission to use its position on the Board of the Global Fund to assure that this lack of technical assistance is addressed at the April 28th Global Fund Board meeting.

### **Malaria can be defeated by adequate funding**

Malaria is a devastating disease, which puts 40 percent of the world’s population at risk. It kills up to three million people a year – almost six people every minute. Malaria is the biggest killer of children in Africa. “Effective investment in malaria could fight the disease,” explains Marcus Lens van Rijn, Project Manager of EAAM, “however, funds are not being disbursed at the desired level. To achieve this and the health-related Millennium Development Goals, more emphasis needs to be put on technical assistance to developing countries. The Global Fund Board must place high priority on increasing technical assistance to ensure the quality of submitted malaria proposals.”

The European Commission contributed almost US\$ 730 million to the Global Fund from 2002–2007 and pledged US\$ 1.263 billion for the period of 2001–2010. At present almost US\$ one billion per year is available for malaria resources, having increased ten-fold over the past ten years. However, in order to scale up the fight against malaria, it is imperative that in country capacity is enhanced, with the support of the Global Fund.



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### **Malaria stresses poor countries**

"There has been enough talk about the need for technical assistance." Karen Hoehn, DSW's Vice Executive Director, emphasized. "Now is the time for action. Without funds disbursement, the aid can hardly be considered effective." In addition to the tragic human cost, malaria poses an unacceptable economic toll on Africa, robbing the continent of US\$12 billion a year in lost productivity and other costs, and absorbs as much as 40 percent of a poor country's health expenditure.

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*The German Foundation for World Population helps people to fight their way out of poverty primarily by promoting access to sexual and reproductive health information, services and supplies. DSW advances sustainable development by raising awareness on global health and population issues in Germany and the European Union, and by implementing sexuality education programmes for young people in developing countries.*

**[www.dsw-online.de](http://www.dsw-online.de)**

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*The European Alliance Against Malaria is a committed group of civil society organizations from Brussels, France, Germany, Spain and the UK working for a malaria-free world. Focused on European action in a global context, we aim through advocacy to increase funding and improve programming for malaria, demanding concrete and resolute action as part of global efforts to reduce poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).*

**[www.europeanallianceagainstmalaria.org](http://www.europeanallianceagainstmalaria.org)**