

## **World Malaria Day Brings Awareness to the Fight Against Malaria**

*Washington D.C., April 24, 2008* – Tomorrow, Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria joins the malaria community in commemorating World Malaria Day. The Global Fund Against AIDS, TB and Malaria has gained tremendous ground in fighting the disease, however, continued investments must be made to ensure access to malaria prevention and treatment.

The Global Fund provides almost 70 percent of all international malaria funding, making it the largest source of malaria financing worldwide. As of December 2007, it has distributed more than 46 million insecticide treated bed nets and delivered more than 44 million malaria treatments. Where bed net distribution, spraying and treatment is scaled up to national population coverage, the Global Fund has shown that malaria cases and child mortality can be reduced by up to 50 percent.

“Malaria-related sickness and death are falling in a number of key countries. This is due to the hard work of the countries implementing Global Fund-supported programs and the invaluable help of technical partners such as the World Health Organization and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership,” said Dr. Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund. “But malaria still claims more than a million lives a year. Our challenge is to make bed nets available for everyone at risk of malaria, especially children and pregnant women, and to expand access to the latest treatment.”

The Global Fund recently began accepting proposals for its eighth round of funding and is encouraging strong and ambitious proposals from those committed to the fight against malaria. Due to the high quality of malaria proposals submitted in Round 7, the Global Fund was able to substantially increase its funding for malaria control. As of January 2008, the Global Fund has approved 147 malaria grants in 79 countries for a total of \$3.7 billion over five years.

“In just a short period of time, Global Fund programs have dramatically decreased malaria-related patient visits in many African countries,” said Natasha Bilimoria, Executive Director of Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. “In order for us to keep seeing these types of successes, continued strong U.S. support for the Global Fund is essential to sustaining these efforts while funding more life-saving malaria programs.”

### **FRIENDS OF THE GLOBAL FIGHT**

*Friends of the Global Fight works to educate, engage and mobilize American decision-makers in the fight to end the worldwide burden of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. By focusing these efforts on decision-makers in Washington, Friends seeks to build a sustained commitment to supporting the Global Fund and the fight against the three diseases. For more information about Friends of the Global Fight, visit [www.theglobalfight.org](http://www.theglobalfight.org).*

### **THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA**

*The Global Fund is a unique global public/private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities represents a new approach to international health financing.*

*The Global Fund works in close collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral organizations to supplement existing efforts dealing with the three diseases. For more information about the Global Fund, visit [www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org).*