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## OVERSIGHT ACTIONS – MULTILATERAL & BILATERAL MALARIA AID

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- **January 17, 2004:** The *Lancet* article, “[WHO, the Global Fund & Medical Malpractice in Malaria Treatment](#),” is published. The article reported that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) were providing malaria patients in Africa with obsolete drugs that failed 80% of the time. The Global Fund was accused of “malpractice in malaria treatments” in Africa by its continued approval of funding for old, cheap, yet ineffective anti-malarial drugs such as chloroquine and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine.
- **February 23, 2004:** Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Russ Feingold (D-WI) sent a letter to Tommy Thompson, then Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, noting that the problems highlighted in the January 2004 *Lancet* article were not limited to the international aid outfits—the letter detailed findings that the U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID), run by Andrew Natsios, was also guilty of failing to follow the agency’s own policy guidelines in the fight against malaria.
- **June 10, 2004:** The *Nature* article, “[Global Fund changes tack on malaria therapy](#),” is published.
- **October 6, 2004:** Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) conducted a USAID oversight hearing on neglected diseases, questioning USAID’s treatment record on malaria.
- **October 2004:** The Global Fund held a meeting in Nairobi to initiate changes in funding for anti-malarial drugs. The meeting was a direct outcome of criticisms raised in the January 2004 *Lancet* article. As a response to this criticism, the Global Fund agreed that all malaria treatment grants should undergo an independent review against current drug resistance data in order to identify grants needing changes in treatment policy.
- **April 28, 2005:** Senator Sam Brownback introduced the Eliminate Neglected Diseases Act of 2005 (the END Act, or S. 950) in the 109th Session of Congress. The bill was co-sponsored by Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK), James Inhofe (R-OK), and Mary Landrieu (D-LA).
- **May 12, 2005:** Senator Tom Coburn held an oversight hearing examining USAID’s anti-malaria policies, finding that while USAID’s funding to fight malaria had grown from \$14 million in 1998 to \$90 million in 2005, the number of deaths caused by malaria had increased by 10%. The Subcommittee’s hearing on USAID’s malaria assistance led to the discovery that less than 8% of the USAID malaria budget went toward life-saving commodities. USAID’s approach had been had focused on “discussions” about the malaria problem—not investing in results.
- **June 30, 2005:** President Bush introduced a new initiative to combat malaria (The President’s Malaria Initiative, or PMI). The key elements of the plan were contained in the END Act (S. 950), introduced by Senator Sam Brownback, and cosponsored by Senators Tom Coburn, James Inhofe, and Mary Landrieu, in April 2005.
- **January 19, 2006:** Senator Tom Coburn held a follow-up oversight hearing to his May 2005 hearing on malaria programs at USAID—since the first hearing, the President had proposed a \$1.2 billion commodity-based initiative to cut malaria mortality in half starting with a group of focus countries. USAID announced radical new program reforms to save lives, including indoor residual spraying with DDT.

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## OVERSIGHT ACTIONS – WORLD BANK MALARIA PROGRAM

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- **April 25, 2006:** The *Lancet* article “[The World Bank: false financial and statistical accounts and medical malpractice in malaria treatment](#),” is published. Per the allegations raised in the article, Senator Tom Coburn’s Federal Financial Management staff contact the World Bank.
- **June 30, 2006:** Senator Tom Coburn sent a letter to the head of the European Union (EU), President José Manuel Barroso, challenging the EU to end all threats (both on and off the record) of agricultural boycotts on African countries who want to use DDT to save children, pregnant women and millions others from the deadly scourge of malaria. The letter asked the EU to clarify the following key points:
  - No boycotts will occur if countries use DDT to save people’s lives;
  - The EU supports DDT as a vital component of any malaria control program;
  - Every country has an absolute right to decide which weapons to use in combating malaria and other lethal diseases;
  - The European Union will respond vigorously against trade bans by EU nations, trade restrictions by importers and supermarket campaigns by environmental activists, if such actions are based on a country’s use of DDT for disease control.
- **August 4, 2006:** Senator Tom Coburn sent an oversight letter to the U.S. Department of Treasury requesting the agency to take accountability for failing World Bank malaria initiatives highlighted in the April 2006 *Lancet* article.
- **August 21, 2006:** Senator Tom Coburn wrote Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, requesting reform and accountability of the Bank’s controversial malaria initiatives—specifically asking the World Bank to consider and respond to the following questions:
  - What amount of financing, broken down by country and year, has the Bank committed and disbursed to malaria control since the 1998 launch of the Roll Back Malaria Campaign?
  - When will the Bank post the information referred to in the previous question on a publicly available website, so that donor nations and other stakeholders can effectively monitor the Bank’s efforts to control malaria?
  - Please describe the methods the Bank plans to use to measure malaria mortality and morbidity reduction in Bank recipient nations, and how the Bank will attribute any such reductions to Bank-financed programs?
- **September 11, 2006:** The European Union (EU) responds to Senator Tom Coburn affirming controlled use of DDT for disease control. The response from EU President José Manuel Barroso put the EU on the record at the highest levels as supporting the Stockholm Convention, which “explicitly allows the use of DDT for disease control according to World Health Organization guidelines.” The letter also renounced any threat of agricultural boycotts against countries that use DDT for malaria control, including Uganda.
- **September 12, 2006:** Senator Coburn notified the Honorable Perezi Kamunanwire, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda, of recent clarifications in malaria policy by the EU as follows: 1) allowing controlled use of DDT for disease control; and, 2) affirming the right of all nations to set their priorities and plans for the fight against malaria without fear of trade repercussions or pressure from groups advocating outdated science and malaria control policy.
- **September 15, 2006:** The World Health Organization (WHO) updates policy on the use of DDT in malaria control through indoor residual spraying. Dr. Arata Kochi, Director of the World Health Organization’s Malaria Department, released updated guidelines which included substantive increases in support for indoor spraying with DDT in Africa.

- **October 4, 2006:** Senator Tom Coburn and Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, met in person to discuss the Bank's floundering malaria programs. Senator Coburn requested full, open, web-based transparency on all malaria spending and the possibility of conducting a series of staff-level meetings on the Hill to allow for appropriate Congressional oversight into the Bank's malaria programs, including some meetings with the Bank's published critics.
- **January 30, 2007:** Senator Tom Coburn sent a follow-up letter to the World Bank expressing his disappointment in the World Bank's continued lack of transparency regarding the multilateral aid organization's past and present malaria programs, which were publicly critiqued in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, the *Lancet*, in April 2006. The Bank has so far declined to brief bipartisan, bicameral Congressional staff on the program since the publication of the *Lancet* article over 8 months earlier.
- **January 31, 2007:** In August 2006, Senator Tom Coburn asked the Department of Treasury to take accountability for reports of medical malpractice in the World Bank's malaria program. Six months later, Dr. Coburn again asked the Department of Treasury to respond to critical oversight questions on the Bank's malaria policy.
- **February 1, 2007:** The U.S. Department of Treasury sent a response to Senator Coburn in reply to oversight questions—answering key oversight questions only in part. In addition, the letter reveals that the U.S. Department of Treasury relied on the Bank to do the work answering critical questions, and the Department of the Treasury did not make an effort to verify responses, or press for complete responses.
- **February 8, 2007:** The World Bank responds to Dr. Coburn's January 30, 2007, letter stating that outside experts will not be allowed to participate in any way in meetings between the Bank and Congressional staff. No bi-partisan, bi-cameral Congressional briefings have been allowed to take place.