

World Malaria Day – the role of business in fighting malaria

1. Why is business involved

It affects their employees!

- absenteeism and reduced productivity
- increased medical expenses

Economic burden

- macro level: estimated \$12 billion a year cost to Africa
 - community level: loss of earnings + increased medical expenses for the poorest
- 30 African countries account for 90% burden of the disease
- climate, worst species of parasite and mosquito vector
 - major impact on ability of some companies to conduct business eg oil companies

2. Role of business

Prevention- Insecticide treated nets, indoor residual spraying → vaccine

Treatment - artemisinin combination therapy, preventatively treating pregnant women

Advocacy and strengthening health systems - workplace policies and programmes

Examples:

Novartis - Cut prices of malaria treatment Coartem by 20%.

ExxonMobil - work to combat malaria extends beyond its workplace programs to the broader community. Its Africa Health Initiative (AHI) supports disease prevention, control and treatment programs mainly focused on malaria. This signature initiative of the ExxonMobil Foundation reaches throughout sub-Saharan Africa with a priority focus in Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Angola, in which ExxonMobil has significant operations and is an existing member of the community. ABCD: Awareness and Education, Bite Prevention, Chemoprophylaxis use by non-immune individuals, D Diagnose and Treat Early

Sumitomo Chemical Company

Olyset long-lasting bednet (insecticide within the fibre), tear proof, and 5 year life
Technology transfer to African company plus manufacturing capacity in Tanzania

GSK examples

Focus on our core skills, discovery and development of new medicines and vaccines

Dedicated R&D facility for diseases of the developing world

Development projects prioritised primarily on their socio-economic and public health benefits rather than their commercial returns. Over 100 GSK scientists work at Tres Cantos, half of whom are subsidised by our partner organisations - the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance). A similar group exists in our vaccines organisation based in Belgium.

Innovative partnerships

In January 2008, we announced a new collaboration with MMV to identify novel drugs for the treatment of malaria. Research will focus on macrolide antibiotics, based on azithromycin, which may have promise as an antimalarial treatment. Under the new agreement, MMV will provide funding for research to be performed at GSK.

Community support and advocacy

Our first African Malaria Partnership supported education and behaviour change programmes in eight African countries, through partnerships with three non profit organisations.

A second grant to the Malaria Consortium focuses on advocacy and aims to raise awareness of malaria in Europe and throughout Africa and bring greater resources to bear against the disease. Through the Malaria Consortium, GSK supported Innovation Grants for Malaria Advocacy in 2007 for four organisations in Africa working in Nigeria, Congo, Senegal and Uganda

Vaccine development

RTS,S/AS, our candidate malaria vaccine for children is currently in phase II clinical trials. The Mozambique clinical trial showed unprecedented results in protecting a significant percentage of children against uncomplicated malaria, malaria infection, and even severe forms of the disease. Remains efficacious over 18 month period
Later study gave first proof of concept in infants, the most vulnerable group, showing for first time that African infants exposed to malaria transmission can be protected by a vaccine.

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