



## 2007 Annual Report

### 1. Introduction

Africa Fighting Malaria (AFM) was formed as a Section 21 non-profit company in South Africa in May 2000 and as a 501(c)3 non-profit in the United States in June 2003. AFM's mission is to make malaria control more transparent, responsive and effective through investigative research and global advocacy. AFM combines technical expertise and strategic communications to hold public institutions accountable to sound, integrated and country-driven malaria control policies.

#### 1.1 AFM Board and Staff

AFM's South Africa Board consists of the following members: Mr. Richard Tren, Dr. Roger Bate and Mr. Jasson Urbach - appointed to the board in 2006. AFM's US Board consists of the following members: Mr. Richard Tren, Dr. Roger Bate and Professor Donald Roberts. In 2007, two additional members were appointed to the US Board – Mr. Lance Laifer, New York based hedge funds manager and champion of malaria control activities, and Mr. Gerry Ohrstrom, New York based private investor.

AFM's Advisory Board provides advice on specific issues and assists in developing strategies on an as needed basis. AFM mourned the loss of one of its Advisory Board Members in 2007, Dr. Brain Sharp. Dr. Sharp headed the Medical Research Council of South Africa's Malaria Research Programme and spearheaded some of the most successful malaria control programs in the region. His death leaves a significant gap in the malaria control community.

Advisory Board Member	Affiliation	Country
Dr. Amir Attaran	University of Ottawa	Canada
Prof. Maureen Coetzee	National Health Laboratory Services	South Africa
Prof. Wen Kilama	African Malaria Vaccine Testing Network	Tanzania
Dr. Rajendra Maharaj	South African Medical Research Council	South Africa
Prof. Don Roberts	Retired from Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences	USA

In 2007, AFM expanded its staff in South Africa and Washington, DC. Francois Maartens was hired in July to work on IRS and DDT advocacy in South Africa. Francois worked for the Medical Research Council in South Africa and brings with him a wealth of on-the-ground knowledge. Francois was instrumental in establishing the highly successful malaria control program in the Lubombo Region, which borders Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland. With almost a decade of field experience, AFM is pleased to

have secured Francois' services and increased its level of practical knowledge in the area of malaria control.

Kimberly Hess was hired in November to work on research and advocacy in Washington, DC. Kimberly has a Master of Public Health from The George Washington University and interned with AFM in the summer of 2007. AFM also hired Carlos Odora on a part-time basis. Carlos is based in Uganda and has been involved in the dissemination of information in the popular media.

AFM's full-time and part-time staff now include: Richard Tren, Roger Bate, Jasson Urbach, Francois Maartens, Kimberly Hess, Philip Coticelli, Carlos Odora and Lorraine Mooney.

## **2. 2007 Activities**

AFM continued its advocacy for indoor residual spraying (IRS) and its defense of DDT. In early 2007, AFM was voted onto the Regional Control Mechanism of the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative (LSDI) - the highly successful and innovative Swazi, South African, Mozambican malaria control program. As the official advocacy partner, AFM will assist in promoting the LSDI internationally and building wider support for all malaria control interventions in 2008.

In April, AFM responded aggressively, both directly and in the media, to Pesticide Action Network's anti-DDT stance at an Africa Malaria Day event in the US Congress. Their position directly undermined the World Health Organization, USAID, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and several African Governments. AFM's advocacy helped to mitigate damage to these organizations and their programs.

In support of the Ugandan Ministry of Health's decision to use DDT, AFM published several articles and spoke at events in February in Kampala and elsewhere defending the right of the Ministry of Health to use DDT. AFM also challenged European Union pressure against the use of DDT arising from import regulations and non-tariff barriers that would theoretically lead to the rejection of agricultural exports from the EU if tiny DDT residues were found on produce.

In May, AFM responded to anti-DDT statements made by the WHO environmental health unit director. The statements undermined the WHO Global Malaria Program, which has been forthright in its support of DDT for malaria control. AFM helped to clarify WHO's position on DDT through its advocacy and interactions with the director, thus providing reassurance to many African Ministries of Health.

In August, Dr. Don Roberts et al. published a study on the spatial repellency of DDT in the peer-reviewed journal PLoS ONE. AFM promoted the study's publication and hosted a teleconference for journalists featuring Dr. Roberts, Richard Tren, and Dr. Pierre Guillet of the WHO.

AFM placed editorials on DDT's appropriate use against malaria in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and other global media. In addition, Roger Bate's work through the American Enterprise Institute has added to AFM's IRS advocacy capacity keeping donors focused on this intervention.

In December, AFM created a document providing malaria advice to tourists visiting the iSimangaliso wetlands park, a world heritage site in KwaZulu-Natal. The document addressed tourists' malaria risk perceptions and the dramatic malaria reductions that have taken place in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

### *2.1 Field Visits – Uganda, Tanzania/Zanzibar*

AFM traveled to Uganda in February, and Tanzania and Zanzibar in November to gauge malaria control progress. These countries were among the first to be targeted by the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) for comprehensive scale up of malaria control interventions, and thus provide valuable insights and lessons learned. AFM conducted interviews with a range of government officials, donor program managers, malaria scientists, manufacturing industry staff and health activists, including people within the PMI and CDC. AFM also conducted field visits to rural villages in Uganda and Zanzibar to observe indoor residual spraying operations. AFM published a comprehensive report on the progress of malaria control in Uganda in September, and is currently working on its evaluation of Zanzibar's malaria control program and their achievements against malaria.

Great progress has been made by the PMI and the Government of Uganda to support a comprehensive malaria control program. The IRS program in Uganda has challenged the perceptions that IRS can only be conducted in areas of unstable malaria and only in areas where there is existing infrastructure. Still, some significant shortcomings remain, particularly with regard to monitoring and evaluating program outcomes.

### *2.2 Publications and Research*

#### **Malaria Donor Score Card**

In April, AFM published a Malaria Donor Score Card, turning complex data on foreign aid into an accessible educational tool for journalists and the public health community. Not surprisingly, AFM discovered that most donor nations do not publicly disclose the amount, purpose and results of malaria control funding. Those that do only measure inputs – funds spent or nets distributed – not lives saved. With the notable exception of the USAID and the UK's DFID, almost all OECD donor agencies fared quite badly.

#### **WHOPES**

In April, AFM published an influential report on the effect of UN-intervention in the nascent market for long-lasting insecticidal nets. The World Health Organization Pesticide Evaluation Scheme, or WHOPES, sets industry standards for nets, but the

review process is slow and opaque, limiting access and competition for public resources. Although WHO approval does not preclude a donor agency or government from buying a particular brand of net, in reality governments and donors rarely buy nets that are not WHO approved. Because WHOPEs only meets once a year, an unintended consequence has been to limit the number of suppliers. This has led to a market dominated by one firm, high prices, accusations of corruption in the procurement process, and reduced choice for consumers. AFM's report received good feedback from the WHO Global Malaria Program, the GFATM and net manufacturers, and its advocacy prompted donor support for the review process.

### **Safe Medicines Project**

The production and distribution of substandard and counterfeit antimalarial drugs is a huge problem. Beyond the immediate threat to individual health, widespread exposure to sub-therapeutic doses of an active ingredient can drive parasitic resistance through a population, dooming an entire class of medicines. This is a real danger for artemisinin, since no new class of antimalarial drug is expected to enter the market for at least another 10 years.

More money will be spent on purchasing antimalarial drugs as funding for malaria control increases, making the need for safe and effective drugs all the more important. AFM began a research and advocacy project in October to address the problem of substandard drugs. The aim of the project is to put pressure on donor agencies and governments to ensure high standards for drug quality. Some donors, particularly the GFATM, continue to allow the procurement of drugs that have not been approved by a stringent regulatory authority or by the WHO.

In November, AFM staff and partners collected and tested antimalarial drugs from randomly selected private pharmacies in major cities of six malaria endemic African countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda). Over a third of samples failed basic quality testing using the Global Pharma Health Fund e.V. Minilab.

In 2008, AFM plans to submit a manuscript for peer-review and release a longer policy paper on malaria treatment. The Minilab will be held in South Africa for future drug testing as part of this ongoing project.

### **Development Goes Wireless**

In line with AFM's belief that long term malaria control and eventual elimination will only be achieved with broad based development, AFM worked with the US-based Mercatus Center at George Mason University and South Africa's Free Market Foundation on several development research papers. One such paper examined the way in which the introduction of mobile phones has helped to alleviate poverty and improve the lives of the people of Botswana. The improvements in economic efficiency through lower communication costs, increased labor mobility, and wider access to both banking facilities and information on market prices, has been a catalyst to improving the lives of

all the people of Botswana, including the most marginalized members of society. AFM presented these findings at the African Resource Bank meeting, a conference on economic development and economic freedom, held in Dar es Salaam in November.

### *2.3 Research Collaborations*

#### **Tyranny and Disease: The Destruction of Healthcare in Zimbabwe**

AFM affirms that in order for any public health program to be effective and sustainable, it must be accompanied by economic growth and development. Zimbabwe exemplifies the perfect storm of human rights abuses and poor economic policies; unsurprisingly the healthcare system has collapsed, leaving hundreds of thousands of innocent people at risk.

In June, AFM hosted a fundraiser in Washington DC to support the efforts of Archbishop Pius Ncube and Bishop Paul Verryn to protect human rights and refugees in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and Johannesburg, South Africa.

In September, AFM co-authored a report, “Tyranny and Disease: The Destruction of Healthcare in Zimbabwe”, with the former Archbishop Pius Ncube, as a follow-up to the March 2005 report, “Despotism and Disease”.

#### **ITN Use**

In April, AFM began assisting Maryam Garba of Stanford University to write a proposal for a research grant to conduct an ITN project in Nigeria. A major problem with ITNs is the lack of air movement within the nets, which leads to low net usage. The project in Nigeria is to install solar powered fans in houses in order to reduce the temperature and increase ITN use. The proposal was submitted to Stanford University and the research grant was approved. The project is underway.

#### **DDT and Human Health**

Pressure against the use of DDT in malaria control continues to undermine several malaria control programs, particularly in Southern Africa. Toward the end of 2007, when IRS spraying programs were underway in Southern Africa, AFM began collaborating with the University of California Riverside (UCR) to measure levels of DDT and its metabolite DDA in the urine of IRS spray operators in Swaziland and South Africa.

UCR is seeking to show that almost all of the DDT that spray operators could be exposed to when conducting IRS is rapidly metabolized and excreted in the form of DDA. Urine samples were collected from IRS spray operators in Swaziland and KwaZulu-Natal for DDA analysis. The research is ongoing but initial results are promising.

## 2.4 Media Coverage

AFM placed articles and letters in the South African and international press. Among others, the publications included *Business Day*, *TCS Daily*, *Washington Post*, and *New Vision*. AFM believes there is great value in influencing public opinion through the media, and in improving the understanding of malaria control and the many issues that public health programs face in poor countries.

AFM continued to be a resource for the electronic media. Richard Tren, Roger Bate, Carlos Odora and Philip Coticelli appeared on radio and television programs in Africa, Europe and the US.

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Date</b>
Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine	USAID's Health Challenge: Improving US Foreign Assistance	Roger Bate	January 1, 2007
New Times	Reconsider DDT Against Malaria	Roger Bate	January 10, 2007
East African Business Week	What Is Working	Roger Bate	January 22, 2007
The Star	Good Intentions Don't Make System Effective	Jasson Urbach	January 23, 2007
AfriForum	Privatise SA's Tertiary Medical Education Facilities	Jasson Urbach	April 3, 2007
Business Day	Hero in the Fight Against Malaria	Richard Tren	April 10, 2007
TCS Daily	Jumping Through WHOPEs To Control Malaria	Richard Tren & Philip Coticelli	April 25, 2007
Business Day	Red Tape Slows Initiatives Against Disease	Richard Tren & Philip Coticelli	April 25, 2007
New Vision	Malaria Still A Big Problem In Uganda	Carlos Odora	April 25, 2007
Health Policy Unit	Inconclusive Study on DDT has Potentially Mortal Consequences	Jasson Urbach	May 9, 2007
Wall Street Journal	Malaria Groups' Silence Enables Fatal Idiocy	Roger Bate	May 10, 2007
New York Sun	Whither Idol's Money?	Philip Coticelli	May 22, 2007
Washington Post	Rachel Carson's Mixed Legacy	Roger Bate	May 26, 2007
New Vision	Publicise The Truth About DDT	Carlos Odora	May 31, 2007
The American Magazine	A Health Plan for the G8: Focus on How Funds Are Spent	Roger Bate & Philip Coticelli	June 6, 2007
Free Market Foundation	Is it Possible to Eliminate Malaria in South Africa	Jasson Urbach	June 19, 2007
New Vision	Uganda Still Needs To Fight Malaria	Carlos Odora	August 1, 2007
Money Web	Promises, Promises and Donor Aid Money	Richard Tren & Jasson Urbach	August 14, 2007
New York Times	A New Home For DDT	Donald Roberts	August 20, 2007
New Vision	DDT Should Not Be Politicised	Carlos Odora	September 2, 2007
TCS Daily	New Malaria Drugs to Be Approved, But Do They Work and Are They Safe?	Roger Bate	September 5, 2007
Wall Street Journal	World Bank Wasted Money and Lives in Buying Wrong Medicine	Roger Bate	September 12, 2007
Cape Argus	Sickness at the Heart of Zimbabwe's Health Care	Jasson Urbach	October 8, 2007

Voice of America Healthy Living	Malaria and African Communities (TV Interview)	Philip Coticelli	October 10, 2007
The Lancet	AFM Response to "WHO Promotes DDT"	Richard Tren	October 14, 2007
The American Magazine	Mind Over Malaria	Roger Bate	October 17, 2007
British Medical Journal	Preventing Malaria In Endemic Areas	Donald Roberts	October 24, 2007
Money Web	Bureaucracy Burdens SA's Private Health Care	Jasson Urbach	October 28, 2007
Journal of Travel Medicine	Letter to the Editor	Francois Maartens	November 3, 2007
The American Magazine	The Case For DDT	Roger Bate	November 5, 2007
Wall Street Journal	Last Chance For DDT	Roger Bate	November 5, 2007
Business Day	A Long, Hard Road to the End of Malaria in Africa	Jasson Urbach	November 6, 2007
The Standard	Drive to increase DDT use in malaria war has stalled	Roger Bate	November 10, 2007
The Economist	Good Intentions	Richard Tren	November 15, 2007
The American Magazine	Quality First	Roger Bate	November 15, 2007
Health Policy Unit	Malaria Control on Zanzibar Island	Jasson Urbach	November 27, 2007
Economic Affairs	Fake Drugs Kill The Poor	Roger Bate	December 4, 2007
New Times	Eradicate Malaria With Growth, Not Nets	Carlos Odora	December 13, 2007
The American Magazine	Canucks Against Malaria	Richard Tren	December 18, 2007
New Vision	A Decent Standard of Living Will Help Eradicate Malaria	Carlos Odora	December 18, 2007
Accra Daily Mail	Eradicate Malaria With Growth, Not Nets	Carlos Odora	December 18, 2007
China Post	A Global Industry of Fake Drugs	Roger Bate	December 22, 2007

### *2.5 Website and Newsletter*

AFM launched its redesigned website in January. AFM updated the website's commentary, news and statistics on a regular basis. The website continued to be a valuable resource for journalists, researchers and students, and AFM received feedback and commentary resulting from web publications. AFM also continued to distribute a bi-weekly electronic newsletter to approximately one thousand subscribers. The newsletter more widely disseminates AFM's advocacy work and raises the profile of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.

### *2.6 Conferences, Hearings and Outreach*

AFM attended and presented at the following meetings and conferences: Global Health Council's Annual Conference in Washington DC, East and Southern Africa Malaria Control Conference in Uganda, Africa Resource Bank meeting in Tanzania, Southern Africa Malaria Control Annual Planning and Consultation Meeting in Durban, Yvonne Chaka-Chaka meeting in South Africa, South African Society of Travel Medicine meeting in Durban, Inter Region Economic Network conference in Tanzania, LSDI RCM

meeting in South Africa, Wembly College in South Africa, and KwaZulu-Natal Four Wheel Drive Club in South Africa.

In early 2007, AFM provided assistance and advice to the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) in order to circumvent paying tariffs on ITNs in Burkina Faso. Ultimately the CRC was given a tariff exemption; however, the episode highlighted the ongoing problem of tariffs and taxes and the bureaucratic and legal barriers that limit access to life saving commodities. During the course of 2007, AFM also presented at several workshops and conferences in the US and South Africa on taxes and tariffs and successfully raised the profile of this issue. The Gates Foundation is now funding research and advocacy into taxes and tariffs on malaria commodities.

In July, AFM published a detailed response to the UK All Party Parliamentary Group's report on malaria. In October, AFM worked closely with Dr. Don Roberts to draft his testimony on human health and climate change to the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

AFM remained an active member of the Malaria Roundtable organized by the Global Health Council in Washington DC.

### *2.7 Congressional Activity*

AFM engaged several key congressmen and continued to utilize George Pieler as a consultant lobbyist. AFM continued to collaborate with several malaria advocacy groups in Washington DC and with the Malaria Roundtable and over the course of the year signed onto several group letters urging full funding for malaria control, and also held meetings with key House and Senate staff regarding PMI funding and malaria in general. AFM will continue to reach out to members of congress to find new malaria champions in 2008.

## **3. Anticipated 2008 Activities**

AFM will continue to play a crucial watchdog role for malaria in 2008, promoting evidence-based solutions and accountability for public spending. Through its success in 2007, AFM has forged new partnerships that will drive its advocacy through 2008.

### *3.1 DDT Book*

AFM continued its work, compiling data and evidence for its definitive book on DDT and malaria control, exposing the faulty science that has marginalized the insecticide, and which continues to hamper the use of insecticides for disease control in general. AFM will hold several events around the time of its publication, and promote the book in the US, EU and Africa.

### *3.2 Safe Medicines Project*

AFM plans to submit a manuscript for peer-review as well as release a longer policy paper on malaria treatment in early 2008. AFM will use the results of the project to lobby governments, UN agencies and the GFATM to ensure the highest standards for drug quality and to stop the procurement of untested drugs with donor funds.

AFM will conduct more studies of antimalarial drug quality in private pharmacies in Africa, enriching the existing database and helping to highlight quality gaps as governments, donors and the UN increase access to antimalarial drugs. Future drug testing will be performed in South Africa using the Minilab.

### *3.3 DDA and Academic Collaborations*

AFM will continue to collaborate with the University of California Riverside on research projects in South Africa and Swaziland to improve the understanding of the complex relationship between DDT, human health and malaria control.

### *3.4 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – Taxes and Tariffs Project*

AFM will work with the Academy for Educational Development on a two-year, Gates Foundation-funded project to investigate and publicize the economic impact of taxes and tariffs on malaria control and development. The project is expected to begin in May 2008.

### *3.5 Advocacy on IRS and DDT*

AFM is the only advocacy group that routinely supports IRS and through its advocacy work defends the use of DDT. AFM will continue to work for the funding and creation of comprehensive malaria control programs that include all major interventions and not just those based solely on the delivery of bednets. In this vain, AFM will respond to research and advocacy material that continues to push one intervention to the exclusion of another.

## **4. Summary**

2007 was a busy and successful year for AFM. The organization consolidated its successes by expanding projects to include new research areas, such as drug quality. 2008 will also be an important year for AFM with new projects and research on drug quality and insecticide use. Ongoing general support for AFM's offices and staff in Southern Africa is needed to maintain its advocacy on the crucially important areas of IRS and insecticide use as well as transparency of donor funded programs.