



BARACK OBAMA: A PLEDGE TO END DEATHS FROM MALARIA BY 2015

Today, Barack Obama committed that as president, he will make the U.S. a global leader in ending deaths from malaria by 2015. Malaria needlessly kills 900,000 people each year. In Africa, a child dies from a mosquito bite every thirty seconds. Beyond this devastating human toll, malaria undermines the economic potential of local economies and overwhelms public health systems – accounting for up to 40% of health spending in many African countries. As global warming and population displacement trends accelerate, an additional 260-320 million people worldwide could be living in malaria-infested areas by 2080.

Barack Obama will combat this deadly disease by working in partnership with developing countries, donor nations, and private and non-profit organizations to achieve universal access to proven, low-cost malaria treatment and prevention efforts. We know these low cost efforts work – in Rwanda and Ethiopia deaths from malaria have already dropped by more than 50% after a dramatic scaling up of insecticide treated mosquito net and expanded access to effective anti-malarial drugs. And since 2004, the number of insecticide-treated mosquito nets produced worldwide has more than doubled. Barack Obama will build on this progress by modernizing global health infrastructures, expanding developing country private sector capacity to produce low-cost insecticide-treated bed nets and malaria treatments, and encouraging public and private R&D for malaria treatments and an eventual malaria vaccine. Obama will work in partnership with the Rollback Malaria Partnership, donor nations and other private and non-profit organizations to leverage U.S. investments and ensure a truly global compact to fight malaria.

This announcement builds on Barack Obama's global development strategy announced last year, premised on the recognition that the security and well-being of each and every American is tied to the security and well-being of those who live beyond our borders. The United States should provide global leadership grounded in the understanding that the world shares a common security and a common humanity. Obama will partner with poor countries to develop the capacity and the resources they need to break the cycle of poverty and death, attain sustainable health and economic outcomes, and to move towards peace and security.

Barack Obama's plan to end deaths from malaria by 2015 includes:

1. Building the Capacity of Local Economies to Provide Low-Cost Malaria Treatments and Prevention:

To achieve a sustainable solution to ending deaths from malaria, Barack Obama will partner with developing countries to develop home grown industries that can provide low-cost, proven prevention and treatments for malaria. Obama understands that donor and non-profit networks will need to play a key role in rapidly scaling up the production and distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets and malaria treatments to achieve universal access in the near term. But these efforts should be coupled with strategies to support the next wave of home grown entrepreneurs and innovators in developing countries and build local capacity to confront public health crises without dependence on foreign donors. That is why Obama announced today that the first major effort of his *Small and Medium Enterprise Fund* will be the development of local production and distribution of low cost bed nets. In Tanzania, local bed net production has already begun making a meaningful contribution to fighting malaria. For example, A to Z Textile, a local company first

funded in 2003 by Acumen Fund is now manufacturing 10 million insecticide-treated bed nets per year and employing over 6,000 female workers. A to Z represents the model that Obama would seek to expand and replicate, in his effort to both end deaths from malaria and develop local economies.

2. **Strengthening the Physical and Human Health Infrastructure in Developing Countries to Provide Effective Treatment and Prevention of Malaria, AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Deadly Diseases:** To achieve universal access to treatments and preventions for malaria and end all deaths by 2015, Barack Obama believes we must strengthen public health systems in developing countries. Last year, Senator Obama announced that as president, he will launch Health Infrastructure 2020: a new initiative at the G-8 that brings together public and private partners in a coordinated effort to improve health systems globally. This initiative will help achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals—including reducing child mortality, to improving maternal health, to combating major diseases such as malaria—by empowering countries to attain long-term and sustainable health improvements. To realize his commitment to end all deaths from malaria while working to build health infrastructures, Obama will make a significant effort to improve primary healthcare facilities abroad. Effective primary healthcare is critical to the fight against malaria because it is the mechanism through which rural populations receive anti-malarial medicines, prevention services, as well as effective counseling regarding proper drug usage. Obama will also work with developing nations to strengthen their public health education programs, to develop an educated healthcare workforce, and to improve healthcare supply chains. By partnering with developing countries and investing in their efforts to upgrade public health infrastructures, Obama will not only deliver on his commitment to end deaths from malaria but will help put in place the prevention and epidemic management techniques that countries need to tackle their health challenges.
3. **Encouraging R&D for New Malaria Treatments and an Eventual Second-Generation Vaccine:** Obama will provide federal R&D funding both for the development of new malaria treatments that overcome growing drug-resistance, as well as for the development of a much needed second-generation malaria vaccine. One critical problem exacerbating malaria's health impact globally is that rural populations in developing countries are becoming increasingly resistant to several of the malaria drugs currently available. Federal support for drug R&D—both for early-stage research and product development as well—is critical to providing drugs that can control and treat the malaria epidemic. Moreover, we still lack a successful malaria vaccine. Just as the U.S. was a leader in eradicating major diseases of our time (such as smallpox), Obama believes that the government should partner with the private and non-profit sector to create a second generation vaccine. In addition, Obama will take steps to ensure that medications for malaria, AIDS, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases developed with U.S. taxpayer dollars are available at low costs in developing countries. Obama would work to encourage public-private agreements such as that reached last May between U.C. Berkeley, Amyris Biotechnologies and OneWorld Health for the commercialization of semisynthetic artemisinin to expand access to malaria medicines. Artemisinin, a key ingredient in first-line malarial treatments, will be produced using a lost-cost technology platform under this agreement, thus creating the potential to treat up to 200 million of the 500 million individuals who contract malaria each year.
4. **Providing the Funding Necessary to Create a Global Compact to End Malaria Deaths Globally by 2015:** Building on the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and the bipartisan commitment to increased malaria funding included in the recent PEPFAR reauthorization bill, Obama will ensure that the U.S. is a global leader in providing necessary resources to eliminate malaria. Obama will build on the \$1 billion per year commitment to malaria by providing additional malaria funding through his SME Fund and Health Infrastructure 2020 plan while challenging partners in the private and non-profit sector, as well as fellow donor governments, to ensure sufficient global funding to meet this bold goal.

Obama's New Malaria Commitment Builds on His Plan to Encourage Democracy and Development Around the World and Confront our Global Challenges:

In November, 2007, Barack Obama laid out a comprehensive strategy to partner with developing countries to encourage democracy and development around the world. His full plan is [here](#). The key components of the Obama plan are:

- **Achieve the Millennium Development Goals:** The United Nations (UN) has embraced the Millennium Development Goals, which aim to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015. The Bush administration tried to keep the UN from affirming these goals. In the Senate, Obama co-sponsored the International Cooperation to Meet the Millennium Development Goals Act. Barack Obama and Joe Biden will target new U.S. assistance to help the world's weakest states to build healthy and educated communities, reduce poverty, develop markets, and generate wealth. They will also work to ensure that increases in U.S. assistance are matched by our partners in the G-8 so that developed countries truly live up to their stated commitments.
- **Enhance U.S. Leadership in the Effort to Combat HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria:** Barack Obama believes that we must do more to fight the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as malaria and tuberculosis. Our first priority should be to implement the recently signed President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), legislation Barack Obama long-supported, to ensure that best practices – not ideology – to drive funding for HIV/AIDS programs. In that context, Barack Obama and Joe Biden will commit the full \$48 billion for PEPFAR over five years to strengthen the existing program and expand it to new regions of the world, including Southeast Asia, India, and parts of Europe, where the HIV/AIDS burden is growing. An Obama administration will also increase U.S. contributions to the Global Fund to ensure that global efforts to fight endemic disease continue to move ahead.
- **Eliminate the Global Education Deficit:** Education is the critical building block of social and economic development and is a key antidote to the hate peddled by extremists. Yet, today, across the developing world, countless families confront a future devoid of dignity and opportunity because they lack access to a basic education. Barack Obama and Joe Biden will spearhead an initiative to eliminate the global education deficit by 2015. An Obama administration will establish at least a \$2 billion Global Education Fund to help fill the financing gap to achieve universal basic education. Barack Obama and Joe Biden will lead efforts to leverage American commitments through the World Bank's Fast Track Initiative to ensure that funding shortfall is no longer the main impediment to progress on basic education.
- **A Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs):** It is neither sustainable nor appropriate for developed countries to focus solely on reducing poverty in the developing world. The challenge is to build the capacity of communities and countries in the developing world to generate wealth on their own. Building on the growing evidence that micro finance works, an Obama administration will provide initial capital for an SME Fund. Administered through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, an independent U.S. government agency, the government will provide seed capital matched by a larger portion from the private sector. The SME Fund will be designed to provide seed capital and technical assistance to catalyze the establishment of job-creating small and medium enterprises, and to build the capacity of entrepreneurs to translate their ideas into viable businesses, including through the creation of regional "SME Universities" supported by America's business schools.
- **Establish Effective Global Health Infrastructure by 2020:** Developing nations need effective health care systems that can support a healthy workforce, sustain economic gains, and protect the citizenry from the threat of contagious diseases that know no borders. This global health infrastructure also matters

enormously to the United States, for when infectious disease spreads unabated, the security of Americans is immediately at risk. Barack Obama and Joe Biden will take the lead at the G-8, working with and leveraging the engagement of the private sector and private philanthropy, to launch Health Infrastructure 2020 – a global effort to work with developing countries to invest in the full range of infrastructure needed to improve and protect both American and global health. A key part of this initiative will be an effort to address the health care brain drain from the world’s poorest countries by training new professionals who commit to sustained service in their home countries and by providing incentives for professionals already trained to stay in their home countries.

- **Fight Corruption:** Corruption has existed for centuries, but the urgency to rollback corruption is growing. We must lead by example by making our own contracting decisions merit-based and transparent. And we must couple our assistance abroad with an insistent call for reform, transparency and accountability. Too often when we talk about corruption, we talk about it in the context of *our* assistance. When U.S. taxpayer money is involved, we must make sure that this money is not wasted or illicitly spent. But we must also recognize that corruption is not just about us – it is the daily reality for billions of people around the world: the reality of police encounters, school admissions processes, and housing accessibility. We must commit ourselves to spearheading an international initiative to root out corruption. As a starting point, an Obama administration will add corruption to the annual human rights reports prepared by the State Department.
- **Promote Freedom from Fear:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden will commit his administration to promoting one of Franklin Roosevelt’s four pillars: freedom from fear: They will commit to strengthen the pillars of a just society in countries around the globe, through insistent calls for reform and critical investments in the growth of transparent and accountable institutions that provide the opportunity and dignity that people so desperately seek. The U.S. should help build strong legislatures, responsible political parties, free presses, and vibrant civil societies, and help ease the fears of communities in the developing world by strengthening judiciaries and building honest and professional police forces in order to ensure that legal systems enforce peoples’ rights and stabilize societies.