



*April 26, 2010*  
*Abuja, Nigeria*

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Nigeria to Benefit from U.S. Presidential Malaria Initiative**

In a goodwill message in support of the 2010 World Malaria Day celebration in Abuja, U.S. Agency for International Development Mission Director, Dr. Ray Kirkland reaffirmed that the people and government of the United States are working closely with the Government of Nigeria through its National Malaria Control Program to ensure universal access to long lasting insecticidal nets and effective treatment of malaria. This assistance he said is critical to helping Nigeria achieve its goal of reducing malaria.

As a key partner in the fight against malaria in Africa, the United States Government (USG), recently included Nigeria, along with fifteen other countries, as one of the countries under its Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI). Under the PMI, assistance to fight malaria will more than triple from \$16 million this year to \$50 million in 2012. The USG through USAID has over the past ten years strengthened the capacity of local net manufacturers to produce long lasting insecticidal nets; and distributed over 1.2 million nets in Nigeria. USAID has made significant contributions towards increased access to quality Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (malaria treatments) at affordable prices through the private sector; and promoted the prevention of malaria during pregnancy.

## Sequence of Events

### **Mission Director Ray Kirkland's participation in the World Malaria Day Commemoration**

**THEME: COUNT MALARIA OUT**

**SLOGAN: COUNT ME IN**

**Event:** Commemoration of 2010 World Malaria Day

**Date:** Monday, April 26, 2010

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Old Parade Ground, Garki, Abuja

**Background:** The Federal Ministry of Health, through the National Malaria Control Program, with full support of partners including USAID, has concluded plans to commemorate the World Malaria Day on April 26, 2010 in Abuja. The event serves to increase awareness of malaria issues and advocate for increased funding of malaria program all over the world.

Since 2001, there has been an unprecedented increase in funding support to the malaria program by both bilateral agencies and the Global Fund. Malaria has become the second largest most funded disease program. The USG has recently decided to make Nigeria a Presidential Malaria Initiative Country, and funding has been growing steadily. The Global Fund has so far approved \$1.3 billion dollars to Nigeria.

The focus of the Nigerian Roll Back Malaria Program includes universal access to long lasting insecticide treated nets; improved case management of malaria and intermittent preventive management of malaria.

#### **Participants:**

Alhaji Suleiman Bello, Honorable Minister of State for Health

Mr. Linus Awute, Permanent Secretary, FMOH

Dr. Folake Ademola-Majekodunmi, National Coordinator, National Malaria Control Program

Head of Partner Agencies: WHO Rep; UNICEF; DFID; Rotary; World Bank

Directors of FMOH

Chairman, World Malaria Day Planning Committee

Drug and net manufacturers

**SCENARIO:**

9:45 a.m. Mission Director Ray Kirkland will arrive Old Parade Ground and be received by Folake Olayinka and John Quinley and other USAID and project staff.

10:00 a.m. Event

1:00 p.m. Mission Director departs.

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY**  
**USAID/NIGERIA MISSION DIRECTOR, DR. RAY KIRKLAND**  
**ON THE 2010 WORLD MALARIA DAY**

**THEME: “COUNTING MALARIA OUT”**

**SLOGAN: “COUNT ME IN”**

**VENUE: OLD PARADE GROUND, AREA 10, ABUJA**

**DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010**

**PROTOCOL:**

- **HONORABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH,  
ALHAJI SULEIMAN BELLO**
- **PERMANENT SECRETARY, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH, MR. LINUS AWUTE**
- **WHO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, DR. PETER ERIKI**
- **UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE, DR. SUOMI SAKAI**
- **CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICA MALARIA DAY PLANNING  
COMMITTEE, SIR PATRICK IKEMEFUSA**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO CONGRATULATE THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH, ALHAJI SULEIMAN BELLO, ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE 2010 WORLD MALARIA DAY WITH THE THEME: “COUNT MALARIA OUT” AND THE SLOGAN: “COUNT ME IN”.**

**THIS EVENT IS A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE STRONG PARTNERSHIP AGAINST MALARIA IN NIGERIA. THE COMMEMORATION OF THIS EVENT HAS COME AT A CRITICAL TIME, WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT AND ENHANCED SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA AND PARTNERS TO REDUCE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY CAUSED BY MALARIA.**

**I AM INDEED PROUD TO BE HERE TODAY AS PART OF THE HISTORIC DRIVE TOWARDS ELIMINATING MALARIA AND ACCELERATING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA AND THE AFRICAN REGION AT LARGE. MALARIA**

**CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN IN NIGERIA. IT ACCOUNTS FOR 60% OF OUTPATIENT VISITS AND 30% OF HOSPITALIZATIONS. WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 150 MILLION PEOPLE, NIGERIA HAS MORE CASES OF MALARIA AND ASSOCIATED DEATHS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN AFRICA. MALARIA IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEATH OF NEARLY 300,000 CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE, AND THOUSANDS OF PREGNANT WOMEN EVERY YEAR.**

**THE 2008 NIGERIAN DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY FOUND THAT ONLY FIVE PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS WERE SLEEPING UNDER INSECTCIDE TREATED NETS. HOWEVER, I NOTE WITH PLEASURE, THE INCREASED LEVEL OF SUPPORT TO THE MALARIA PROGRAM FROM THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS.**

**USAID HAS BEEN SUPPORTING MALARIA CONTROL EFFORTS IN NIGERIA FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS AND HAS RECENTLY CONDUCTED AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NIGERIAN MALARIA PROGRAM WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING ITS**

**SUPPORT. NIGERIA HAS NOW QUALIFIED AS A FULL FLEDGED PRESIDENTIAL MALARIA INITIATIVE COUNTRY. WITH THIS DESIGNATION THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE HIGHER LEVELS OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MALARIA CONTROL, WHICH WILL TRIPLE THE SIZE OF USAID'S CURRENT PROGRAM. AS WE ALL CONSOLIDATE EFFORTS TO 'COUNT MALARIA OUT', 'YOU CAN COUNT USAID IN'.**

**USAID WILL INCREASE ITS SUPPORT BY PROVIDING LIFE SAVING COMMODITIES SUCH AS LONG LASTING INSECTICIDAL NETS, ARTEMESININ BASED COMBINATION THERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF MALARIA AND DRUGS FOR THE PREVENTION OF MALARIA DURING PREGNANCY. USAID HAS ALREADY PROCURED 1.2 MILLION COURSES OF MALARIA TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM IN KANO AND CROSS RIVER STATES THROUGH SOCIAL MARKETING. THE NEW USAID FLAGSHIP PROJECT - TSHIP, WHICH FOCUSES ON INTEGRATED MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES, ALSO INCLUDES MALARIA**

**INTERVENTIONS, AND IS BEING IMPLMENTED IN BAUCHI AND SOKOTO STATES. IN THE LAST YEAR, USAID HAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED OVER 1,300,000 TREATED BEDNETS IN KANO AND CROSS RIVER STATES.**

**IN THE COMING YEAR, USAID WILL START A NEW PROJECT, INITIALLY IN THREE STATES, THAT WILL SUPPORT A WIDE RANGE OF MALARIA CONTROL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MALARIA COMMUNICATIONS, TREATED BEDNETS, IMPROVED DIAGNOSIS, CASE TREATMENT, PREVENTION IN PREGNANCY AND INDOOR RESIDUAL SPRAYING. WE HOPE TO EXPAND THIS PROJECT TO AT LEAST SEVEN STATES IN FOLLOWING YEARS.**

**I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA AND OTHER PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUSTAINED EFFORTS TOWARDS ENSURING UNIVERSAL COVERAGE OF LONG LASTING INSECTICIDAL NETS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. I HAVE NOTED WITH PLEASURE THE RECENT SUCCESS OF DISTRUBUTING OF OVER 19 MILLION TREATED NETS IN**

**ELEVEN STATES IN THE PAST 16 MONTHS. I HAVE ALSO NOTED GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS BY SOME STATES SUCH AS CROSS RIVER, WHICH HAS BEEN ABLE TO REACH THE TARGET OF 80% NET OWNERSHIP AND 60% OF CHILDREN SLEEPING UNDER NETS THROUGH STATE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS AND WITH OTHER SUPPORT.**

**I WISH TO ONCE MORE REITERATE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF ROLLING BACK MALARIA AND LOOK FORWARD TO A STRONGER COLLABORATION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA AND ROLL BACK MALARIA PARTNERS IN THE COMING YEARS.**

**THANK YOU.**