



SECRETARIAT

Talk Points
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Thank you, and let me first of all congratulate the Global Fund for this excellent report. I'd like to emphasize **three messages** that come through in the report with regard to the fight against malaria.

First, Partnership is key.

- The benefits of the Global Fund's commitment to public-private partnership resonate from the first page and throughout this Report. (Dr Zewdie has pointed to this.)
- The Global Fund has provided leadership in the international malaria community as an active member of the RBM Board.
- And the Fund continues to find ways to broaden its engagement with others, as it did again last year by establishing a new Partnerships Constituency, allowing Stop TB, UNITAID and RBM to join ever more closely in the Global Fund's work.

My second point is that the report shows -- in facts and figures -- that investing development aid in malaria control yields high returns.

- The Global Fund is today the world's **largest financier** of malaria programmes in endemic countries, providing two-thirds of all malaria control financing.
- Since its creation, the Fund has approved malaria proposals covering 83 countries for a total of 5.3 billion US dollars.
- RBM Partners have worked closely with endemic countries to develop sound funding proposals, to meet the requirements for grant signature, and to overcome implementation bottlenecks.
- The success rate of malaria proposals has increased in the past five years from 23% (in 2005) to 68% (in 2008-Round 8), with 78% success among sub-Saharan African countries supported by RBM.



- Most important, the financing provided by the Global Fund has made a real difference in countries. Increases in coverage of malaria prevention and treatment interventions have already resulted in significant reductions of malaria-induced illness and death. Countries such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia and the island of Zanzibar have reduced malaria deaths by more than 50%.
- In short, for the RBM Partnership, the Global Fund has proven to be an exemplary investment opportunity yielding very substantial returns.

My third and final point is about sustaining the efforts - sustaining the "Innovation and Impact", as the Report is entitled.

- In addition to funding country malaria programmes and commodities through its 9 Rounds, the Global Fund with other RBM partners have pioneered the Affordable Medicines for Malaria facility (AMFm) to increase access to effective antimalarial medicines in both the public and private sectors. The Global Fund hosts this innovative financing mechanism on behalf of RBM and is rolling it out now, initially in nine countries.
- If the Fund's financing and innovativeness are sustained, we expect malaria transmission, illnesses and deaths to continue to drop, relieving overstressed health systems and helping economies, in particular African economies, to pick up.
- Through donor funding for disease control and the engagement of a wide range of partners, malaria endemic countries are reporting significant gains.
- But as the Global Fund Report puts it, this progress is "fragile" and can be easily reversed.
- It is not the time to diminish commitment and financing for malaria and other major diseases. On the contrary, now more than ever, the Global Fund, on behalf of its partners and especially endemic countries, needs sustained donor support to continue to build on the impact that it is very clearly demonstrating.

Thank you.