

11. Health: Neglected Tropical Diseases [127]

Commitment:

“To build on our commitments made on neglected tropical diseases at St Petersburg, we will work to support the control or elimination of diseases listed by the WHO through such measures as research, diagnostics and treatment, prevention, awareness-raising and enhancing access to safe water and sanitation. In this regard, by expanding health system coverage, alleviating poverty and social exclusion as well as promoting adequate integrated public health approaches, including through the mass administration of drugs, we will be able to reach at least 75% of the people affected by certain major neglected tropical diseases in the most affected countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, bearing in mind the WHO Plan. With sustained action for 3-5 years, this would enable a very significant reduction of the current burden with the elimination of some of these diseases.”

G8 Leaders Declaration on Development and Africa

Assessment:

Compliance Score

Country	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada		0	
France	-1		
Germany	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Russia	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union	-1		
Average Score	-0.33		

Background:

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are communicable diseases which have caused great suffering in tropical climates and poverty-stricken areas without garnering widespread attention from the international community. With no market of wealthy sufferers, in modern times, significant medical research on NTDs has been scarce.⁸⁴⁴

⁸⁴⁴ Neglected Tropical Diseases – Frequently Asked Questions – Why are they Neglected? World Health Organization 4 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.
http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/faq/en/index5.html.

The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that the majority of international health aid has been aimed at HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.⁸⁴⁵ Previous G8 commitments have often been directed at the aforementioned three diseases as well as polio.⁸⁴⁶ NTDs, however, kill about 1.8 million people annually and affect upwards of one billion people worldwide. Leprosy, onchocerciasis, dengue, and leishmaniases are among the many diseases considered to be NTDs.

The first commitment regarding infectious diseases was presented at the Lyon Summit in 1996, including assistance to affected countries. Parasitic diseases, many of which fall under the umbrella of NTDs, were mentioned specifically at the Birmingham Summit in 1998. While the first widespread commitments targeting health in Africa were made at the Okinawa Summit in 2000 and the Kananaskis Summit in 2002 respectively, it was not until the St Petersburg Summit in 2006 that NTDs were specifically targeted. These commitments were aimed at “future emerging infectious diseases,” zoonotic diseases, and developing health care infrastructures in developing nations.⁸⁴⁷

In 2008, NTDs were addressed at the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, where G8 leaders noted a need for “reinvigorated” efforts and efforts over the next 3-5 years through the WHO plan.⁸⁴⁸ The WHO Plan indicates goals and targets for the period 2008 to 2015, with 9 strategic action areas, including improving intervention and surveillance mechanisms. The plan lists 20 NTDs, with three targeted for elimination or eradication. Nine are considered tool-ready (including onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, yaws, and others), and eight are considered tool-deficient (including anthrax, dengue, chagas disease, and others). The WHO specifically identifies 14 diseases as the focus of its current efforts.⁸⁴⁹

Commitment Features:

The commitment puts forward a number of broad strategies to combat neglected tropical diseases. As stated, its scope is too broad for us to assess. The commitment does, however, specifically mention treatment and prevention, “the mass administration of drugs,” and the WHO Plan. This suggests two broad spheres of action: treatment and prevention on the ground, and research to develop better treatment and prevention. For full compliance, G8 members must take action in both areas.

Prevention can take many forms, from prophylaxis drug administration to improved water treatment. Prevention measures must be specifically identified as addressing

⁸⁴⁵ Neglected Tropical Diseases: Hidden Successes, Emerging Opportunities, World Health Organization Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (Geneva) 2006, Date of Access: 18 December 2008. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2006/WHO_CDS_NTD_2006.2_eng.pdf.

⁸⁴⁶ All G7/8 Commitments 1975-2006, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 2006. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments.pdf.

⁸⁴⁷ All G7/8 Commitments 1975-2006, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 2006. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments.pdf.

⁸⁴⁸ Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health: Report of the G8 Health Experts Group, G8 Health Experts Group (Toyako) 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-healthexperts.pdf>.

⁸⁴⁹ Global Plan to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases 2008-2015, World Health Organization Department for Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (Geneva) March 2007, Date of Access: 18 December 2008. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO_CDS_NTD_2007.3_eng.pdf.

neglected tropical diseases. For example, general programs to improve water quality do not constitute compliance unless they are specifically identified as addressing NTDs by governments or participating organizations.

Diseases identified as neglected vary somewhat between organizations. For the purposes of this report, we use the NTDs identified in the WHO’s Global Plan.⁸⁵⁰ The commitment calls for sustained action, which means that members must do something over the next year.

Scoring:

-1	Member cuts or does not increase funding to existing prevention or treatment programs AND cuts or does not increase funding to research projects on neglected tropical diseases.
0	Member increases funding to existing prevention or treatment programs OR research programs developing “safe, simple and cost-effective tools” to prevent, detect and treat neglected tropical diseases.
+1	Member increases funding to existing prevention or treatment programs AND research programs developing “safe, simple and cost-effective tools” to prevent, detect and treat neglected tropical diseases.

Team Leader: Conrad Lochovsky

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). It has initiated a new program to treat NTDs, but it has not pursued research on tool-deficient diseases.

In this compliance cycle, Canada has expanded the African Program for Onchocerciasis Control, which builds community-based programs to treat onchocerciasis by distributing Ivermectin in Africa’s nineteen remaining endemic countries.⁸⁵¹ Between 2002 and 2008, the program was promised CAD8 million by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).⁸⁵² Between 2009 and 2015, it should receive up to CAD15.5 million.⁸⁵³

⁸⁵⁰ Global Plan to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases 2008-2015, World Health Organization Department for Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (Geneva) March 2007, Date of Access: 18 December 2008. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO_CDS_NTD_2007.3_eng.pdf.

⁸⁵¹ African Program for Onchocerciasis Control, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa). 8 June 2009. Date of Access: 8 June 2009. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vLUWebProjEn/DDE27402DA0081A085257553003D172E?OpenDocument>.

⁸⁵² African Program for Onchocerciasis Control, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa). 8 June 2009. Date of Access: 8 June 2009. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vLUWebProjEn/DDE27402DA0081A085257553003D172E?OpenDocument>.

⁸⁵³ African Program for Onchocerciasis Control, CIDA Project Browser (Ottawa) 30 June 2009. Date of Access: 30 June 2009. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/projEn/A033538001>.

CIDA continuing to fund several projects that target NTDs. CIDA has provided CAD15 million for 2004-2011, to support the Ten-Year Health and Social Development Plan in Mali.⁸⁵⁴ This project has provided information and education on the prevention of several neglected tropical diseases.⁸⁵⁵ This funding is not new, and thus does not constitute compliance.

CIDA also continues to fund the Guinea Worm Eradication project (Phase II), which helps support national efforts to eradicate Guinea worm diseases, also known as dracunculiasis, through a coordinated international approach. The eradication project focuses on health education and community mobilization, combined with strategies to ensure access to clean drinking water. CIDA has promised CAD6 million for this project, which started in 2005 and will continue until 2010.⁸⁵⁶ Finally, for 2006-2009 period, CIDA has provided approximately CAD500 thousand for the Community-based Epidemiological Surveillance project in El Salvador. This project conducts surveillance of dengue fever among children at risk.⁸⁵⁷ Again, since this funding is not new, it does not constitute compliance.

Canada adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁸⁵⁸ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁸⁵⁹

Thus, Canada has been awarded a score of 0. While Canada has launched at least one new program to address a tool-ready NTD, it has not pursued initiative to address tool-deficient NTDs.

Analyst: Claire Chow

France: -1

France has failed to comply with its commitment to pursue prevention, treatment and research on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

⁸⁵⁴ Support to the Ten-Year Health and Social Development Plan, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 18 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vLUWebProjEn/6AA4152BB0DEC636852570130045EDDF?OpenDocument>.

⁸⁵⁵ Support to the Ten-Year Health and Social Development Plan, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 18 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vLUWebProjEn/6AA4152BB0DEC636852570130045EDDF?OpenDocument>.

⁸⁵⁶ Guinea Worm Eradication. Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa). 8 June 2009. Date of Access: 8 of June 2009. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vLUWebProjEn/E1DC4CC1FDC2B709852575BE0038087C?OpenDocument>.

⁸⁵⁷ Community-based Epidemiological Surveillance, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 18 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vLUWebProjEn/1E165CCDD15D82ED852572F700370987?OpenDocument>.

⁸⁵⁸ Sponsors, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

http://www.bamako2008.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=51.

⁸⁵⁹ The Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

<http://www.tropika.net/specials/bamako2008/call-for-action/BAMAKOCALLTOACTIONFinalNov24.doc>.

Overall, France is committed to international health issues, particularly HIV/AIDS treatment and research. Between 2005 and 2007, France increased its contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by 33 per cent.⁸⁶⁰

In 2006, France committed close to EUR7.5 million to the Drugs for Neglected Tropical Diseases Initiative (DNDI), an NGO that coordinates drug research for NTDs.⁸⁶¹ Further, in a 2007 report on framework for partnership with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) France pledged to “support in the fight against neglected parasitic diseases”⁸⁶² in conjunction with DNDI. By 2008, however, DNDI noted that it had only received slightly over EUR2 million of the funds pledged.

Along with ten EU member states, France adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁸⁶³ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs. However, since the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, France has not taken any significant steps to combat NTDs.

Thus, France has been awarded a score of -1 for failing to act on neglected tropical diseases. While France has provided limited support for NTD programs in the past, it has not expanded its support or initiated new programs in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Charlotte Freeman-Shaw

Germany: -1

Germany has failed to comply with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Despite requests from the developing world, Germany has not pursued prevention, treatment or research on NTDs.

On 10 December 2008, African Union health ministers specifically called on Germany to donate doses of praziquantel, a drug that effectively treats schistosomiasis.⁸⁶⁴ The

⁸⁶⁰ France’s Action Against AIDS, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Date of Access: 6 December 2008. http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities_1/health_1102/fightingaids_4007/france-action-against-aids_6792/france-financial-contribution-to-the-fight-againstaids_12252.html.

⁸⁶¹ The French Development Agency commits EUR1.5 million to DNDI, DNDI http://www.dndi.org/cms/public_html/insidearticleListing.asp?CategoryId=166&SubCategoryId=167&ArticleId=398&TemplateId=1.

⁸⁶² Framework partnership document France – Democratic Republic of Congo (2007-2011), French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Date of Access: 6 December 2008. http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files_156/democratic-republic-of-the-congo_202/france-and-democratic-republic-of-the-congo_4587/cultural-scientific-and-technical-cooperation_5504/framework-partnership-document-france-democratic-republic-of-congo-2007-2011_9499.html?var_recherche=neglected+tropical+disease.

⁸⁶³ Sponsors, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. http://www.bamako2008.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=51.

⁸⁶⁴ African Ministers to Petition for Child Drugs, Global Network: Neglected Tropical Diseases (Kampala) 10 December 2008. Date of Access: 22 January 2009. <http://gnntdc.sabin.org/press/2008/12/17/africanministers-petition-child-drugs>.

ministers noted that neglected tropical diseases are threatening Africa's chances of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.⁸⁶⁵ Praziquantel is manufactured by The Merck Group, originally a German pharmaceutical company, which already donates some praziquantel to developing countries through a partnership with the WHO.⁸⁶⁶ To date, Germany has not responded to the health ministers' request.

Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of -1 for failing to act on NTDs.

Analyst: Stephan Bundi

Italy: -1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to pursue prevention, treatment and research on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

On 31 July 2008 Italian Secretary of State Vincenzo Scotti approved a grant of EUR140 million for international development "cooperative initiatives" targeting, among other things, health.⁸⁶⁷ There is no evidence that these funds will support interventions on NTDs, however.

In an address to the High-Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Minister of Foreign Affairs Franco Frattini indicated Italy's priorities for global health: "Our action should take a more balanced approach," he said. "While funds to fight specific diseases are certainly positive, this should not pre-empt aid to strengthen healthcare systems."⁸⁶⁸

In a report on the G8 Hokkaido Summit, Italy's foreign affairs website pledges a commitment to "provid[e] adequate health cover," however emphasis was placed primarily on malaria.⁸⁶⁹ Similarly, the Italian Development Cooperation website focuses on more widely-known diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.⁸⁷⁰

Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of -1 for failing to act on NTDs.

Analyst: Charlotte Freeman-Shaw and Polina Arkhipova

⁸⁶⁵ African Ministers to Petition for Child Drugs, Global Network: Neglected Tropical Diseases (Kampala) 10 December 2008. Date of Access: 22 January 2009.

<http://gnntdc.sabin.org/press/2008/12/17/africanministers-petition-child-drugs>.

⁸⁶⁶ Combating the tropical disease schistosomiasis, Merck, 3 December 2008. Date of Access: 22 January 2009. <http://www.merck.de/en/company/responsibility/community/schistosomiasis.html>.

⁸⁶⁷ Grant of approximately 140 million euro in donations approved for cooperation initiatives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 31 July 2008. Date of Access: 22 January 2009.

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Comunicati/2008/07/20080731_Scotto_140Mi1_Cooperaz.htm.

⁸⁶⁸ Address by Minister Frattini at the High-Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New York) 25 September 2008. Date of Access: 22 December 2008. http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Stampa/Sala Stampa/Interventi/2008/09/20080926_Frattini_High_level.

⁸⁶⁹ 'History of the G8', Foreign Affairs. Date of Access: 7 May 2009.

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Politica_Estera/G8/.

⁸⁷⁰ 'Italian Development Cooperation.' Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo. Date of Access: 7 May 2009.

<http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgs/inglese/intro.html>.

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to pursue prevention, treatment and research on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

In the past, Japan has taken substantial action on NTDs. At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, Japan established itself as a leader on infectious diseases by proposing the Hashimoto Initiative and the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative.⁸⁷¹ The Hashimoto Initiative specifically addressed schistosomiasis and lymphatic filariasis, both considered NTDs in this report.⁸⁷²

On 17 February 2009, the Government of Japan announced a donation of JPY7 million worth of portal nebulizers (inhalers that deliver medication) to Bolivia.⁸⁷³ The emergency relief will help combat an epidemic of dengue fever, an NTD identified as a priority in the WHO Plan.

Japan adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁸⁷⁴ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁸⁷⁵

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of 0 for its limited action to address the treatment of neglected tropical diseases.

Analyst: Stephan Bundi

Russia: -1

Russia has failed to comply with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

There is no information to indicate that Russia has supported any programs to address NTDs. Russia has not funded mass drug administration programs, prevention or research in this compliance cycle.

Thus, Russia has been awarded a score of -1 for failing to act on NTDs.

Analyst: Igor Churkin

⁸⁷¹ Country Performance Assessment, Japan, From Okinawa 2000 to Genoa 2001, G8 Information Centre (Toronto). Date of Access: 22 January 2009.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2001genoa/assessment_japan.html.

⁸⁷² Hashimoto Initiative (Kenya/Kyoto) 15 June 2002. Date of Access: 22 January 2009.

<http://www.kawasaki-m.ac.jp/mw/who-02/contents/a.html>.

⁸⁷³ Emergency Assistance for Dengue Fever Epidemic in Bolivia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 17 February 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2009/2/1188106_1128.html.

⁸⁷⁴ Sponsors, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

http://www.bamako2008.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=51.

⁸⁷⁵ The Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

<http://www.tropika.net/specials/bamako2008/call-for-action/BAMAKOCALLTOACTIONFinalNov24.doc>.

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). The UK is actively pursuing the eradication of dracunculiasis (Guinea Worm disease), a tool-ready NTD, and has also announced additional funding for the Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative, for tool-deficient NTDs.

On 15 May 2009, the Department for International Development (DFID) announced a GBP18 million fund to help develop effective treatments for tropical diseases. The new funding coincided with the addition of a new combination therapy onto the WHO's list of essential medicines.⁸⁷⁶ In the past, the United Kingdom has promised GBP6.5 million to the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, an NGO that coordinates drug research on NTDs.⁸⁷⁷

On 22 September 2008, Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander announced a GBP10 million funding increase to tackle dracunculiasis, in five African countries still fighting the disease: South Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, and Mali.⁸⁷⁸ Dracunculiasis is listed as a “tool-ready” disease targeted for eradication by the WHO’s Global Plan.⁸⁷⁹ The new funding is part of DFID’s long-term GBP50 million commitment to a number of NTDs, including trachoma and schistosomiasis.⁸⁸⁰ The funding will pay for water filters, health workers, public education programs and medication, and could lead to the eradication of dracunculiasis.⁸⁸¹

On 5 December 2008, when former US President Jimmy Carter announced that DFID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in conjunction with the WHO and the Carter Center, would commit USD55 million toward the eradication of dracunculiasis.⁸⁸² The Gates Foundation agreed to match DFID’s existing commitment of GBP10 million.⁸⁸³ The new funds will be shared by the Carter Center and the WHO.⁸⁸⁴

⁸⁷⁶ DFID – New medication slashes treatment time for ‘sleeping’ killer by a third (London) 15 May 2009. Date of Access: 7 June 2009. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Press-releases/20091/New-medication-slashes-treatment-time-for-sleeping-killer-by-a-third/>.

⁸⁷⁷ Address by International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander (London) 22 September 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/tropical-diseases.asp>

⁸⁷⁸ Address by International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander (London) 22 September 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/tropical-diseases.asp>.

⁸⁷⁹ Global Plan to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases 2008-2015, World Health Organization (Geneva) March 2007. Date of Access: 20 November 2008. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO_CDS_NTD_2007.3_eng.pdf

⁸⁸⁰ Address by International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander (London) 22 September 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/tropical-diseases.asp>

⁸⁸¹ Address by International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander (London) 22 September 2008. Date of Access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/tropical-diseases.asp>.

⁸⁸² Address by Former US President Jimmy Carter at the Carter Center, Atlanta Office (Atlanta) 5 December 2008. Date of Access: 8 December 2008. http://www.cartercenter.org/news/pr/gates_120508.html.

⁸⁸³ Address by Former US President Jimmy Carter (London) 8 December 2008. Date of Access: 8 December 2008. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/guinea-worm-alltime-low.asp>.

⁸⁸⁴ Address by Former US President Jimmy Carter (London) 8 December 2008. Date of Access: 8 December 2008. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/guinea-worm-alltime-low.asp>.

The United Kingdom adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁸⁸⁵ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁸⁸⁶

Thus, the UK has been awarded a score of +1 for its funding commitments to prevention and treatment for tool-ready NTDs, and research towards tool-deficient NTDs.

Analyst: Amy C. Willis

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

The Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program was launched by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in September 2006, to “integrate and scale up delivery of preventative chemotherapy for five targeted NTDs.”⁸⁸⁷ The targeted diseases (lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, onchocerciasis, and soil-transmitted helminthiasis) are all now recognized priority diseases under the WHO’s Global Plan.⁸⁸⁸

During this compliance cycle, the NTD Control Program has expanded. For example, in Uganda, a program of mass drug administration reached 5.7 million people between November 2007 and February 2008.⁸⁸⁹ But a round undertaken in this compliance cycle, from November 2008 to January 2009, reached 11 million people.⁸⁹⁰

On 21 May 2009, the National Institute of Health announced a new USD24 million program to develop treatments for “rare, neglected diseases.”⁸⁹¹ One project being considered is a new drug for schistosomiasis, a WHO priority NTD, so some or all of this fund will no doubt go towards “tool-deficient” NTDs.

⁸⁸⁵ Sponsors, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

http://www.bamako2008.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=51.

⁸⁸⁶ The Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

<http://www.tropika.net/specials/bamako2008/call-for-action/BAMAKOCALLTOACTIONFinalNov24.doc>.

⁸⁸⁷ About the Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program, Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program. Date of Access: 9 June 2009. <http://ntd.rti.org/about/index.cfm?fuseaction=static&label=about>.

⁸⁸⁸ Global Plan to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases, 2008-2015, World Health Organization, 2007. Date of Access: 9 June 2009. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO_CDS_NTD_2007.3_eng.pdf.

⁸⁸⁹ Uganda, NTD Control Program. Date of Access: 9 June 2009.

<http://ntd.rti.org/about/index.cfm?fuseaction=static&label=uganda>.

⁸⁹⁰ Uganda, NTD Control Program. Date of Access: 9 June 2009.

<http://ntd.rti.org/about/index.cfm?fuseaction=static&label=uganda>.

⁸⁹¹ NIH Unveils USD24 million Program To Help Develop Drugs For Rare, Neglected Diseases, NTD Control Program, 21 May 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009.

<http://ntd.rti.org/news/index.cfm?id=33&fuseaction=detail>.

In December 2008, USAID provided USD6.2 million and deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to assist in the fight against Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak.⁸⁹² While both financial contributions are noteworthy, cholera is not one of the NTDs listed within the WHO's Global Plan, so action on cholera does not constitute compliance with this commitment.

The United States adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁸⁹³ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁸⁹⁴

Thus, the US has been awarded a score of +1. The United States has pursued prevention, treatment and research on neglected tropical diseases.

Analyst: Amy C. Willis

European Union: -1

The EU has not complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Although the EU is funding existing research projects on the prevention and treatment of NTDs, there is no evidence to show that the EU has increased funding in this compliance cycle.

The European Commission is funding various research projects on NTDs in their seventh framework program.⁸⁹⁵ Eight existing projects address African sleeping sickness, chagas and leishmaniasis, and their funding totals up to EUR22.6 million.⁸⁹⁶ The third call for research proposals ended 3 December 2008 and will target drug and vaccine development for NTDs.⁸⁹⁷ The EU is also directly funding a visceral leishmaniasis vector research program in India and Bangladesh.⁸⁹⁸ There is no evidence that funding has increased during this compliance cycle, however.

⁸⁹² Press Release: USAID Increases Assistance for Zimbabwe Cholera Outbreak, The United States Agency for International Development Press Office (Washington) 4 December 2008. Date of Access: 4 December 2008. <http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2008/pr081204.html>.

⁸⁹³ Sponsors, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.

http://www.bamako2008.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=29&Itemid=51.

⁸⁹⁴ The Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.tropika.net/specials/bamako2008/call-for-action/BAMAKOCALLTOACTIONFinalNov24.doc>.

⁸⁹⁵ EC Research in Neglected Infectious Diseases, European Commission Research - Health. Date of Access: 7 May 2009. http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/index_en.html.

⁸⁹⁶ Projects FP7, European Commission Research - Health. Date of Access: 7 May 2009. http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/projectsfp7_en.html.

⁸⁹⁷ Calls for proposals, European Commission Research - Health. Date of Access: 7 May 2009.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/call-for-proposals_en.html.

⁸⁹⁸ TDR Business Line 10 Research to support the elimination of Visceral Leishmaniasis Annual Progress Report, Special Program for Research & Training in Tropical Diseases June 2008. Date of Access: 17 December 2008. <http://www.who.int/tdr/research/visceral-leishmaniasis-elimination/pdf/BL10-annual-report-2008.pdf>.

Ten EU member states adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁸⁹⁹ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁹⁰⁰

Thus, the EU has been awarded a score of -1 for failing to increase funding for NTDs in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Claire Chow

⁸⁹⁹ The Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.
<http://www.tropika.net/specials/bamako2008/call-for-action/BAMAKOCALLTOACTIONFinalNov24.doc>.

⁹⁰⁰ The Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health, Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako) 25 November 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008.
<http://www.tropika.net/specials/bamako2008/call-for-action/BAMAKOCALLTOACTIONFinalNov24.doc>.