Insecticides

• Control of vector borne diseases require safe and effective insecticides;
• Even where a safe and effective vaccine exists – e.g. Yellow Fever, robust vector control is needed for disease prevention and to control epidemics;
• Despite growing awareness of malaria & other vector borne diseases, there is little advocacy for insecticide spraying & new insecticides.
Getting malaria control right

• Creating a barrier between man and mosquito is the best way of halting malaria transmission;

• LLINs are an important & effective method of malaria control.

• IRS neglected? Spraying tiny amounts of insecticide on the inside walls of houses and under the eaves is an excellent & proven way of controlling malaria – this intervention eradicated malaria from the US and Europe & it continues to free people from the threat of malaria in several African countries.

• Yet few donors will support IRS, erroneously claiming that it is unsustainable.
House Spray Rates, 1965-92, and Cumulative Malaria Cases, pre- vs. post-1979
(Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela)

Cumulative Numbers of Cases (x 1000)

Sprayed houses per 1000 population (HSR)

Pressure against insecticide use

- Anti-insecticides pressure rises in 1970s;
- DDT banned in Sweden, US & many other countries by 1972;
- WHA 1975, several countries complain of DDT price rises & lack of availability;
- Plead to WHO to assist in procuring DDT, which is still permitted for use in malaria control.
- 1993, PAHO prohibits use of PAN ‘Dirty Dozen’
- 1997 WHA Resolution (50.13) calls on countries to reduce reliance on insecticides for disease control.
Way forward...

• Urgent need for strong, science-based public advocacy for insecticides;
• Challenge and push back against campaigns to limit man-made chemicals in disease control;
• Question wholesale adoption of Precautionary Principle ... how can we evaluate the risks of NOT having pesticides available?
• Push for pro-active regulations that encourage R&D for new public health insecticides;
• Embrace the full range of actions of insecticides – based on evidence since 1940s.
• Would HIV/AIDS activists ever permit activists to campaign against use of ARVs?
About AFM

• AFM was founded in 1999 & since 2000 has been a singular voice for better global malaria control
• AFM has achieved great successes because we work with malaria scientists and governments to change the perceptions about what works in malaria control;
• AFM works with activists, scientists, the drugs industry & governments to assist in the roll-out of new drugs for malaria treatment
About AFM contd.

• AFM works to increase the power that African malaria scientists have in implementing the best possible interventions for their circumstances.
• AFM works to change the politics of malaria control. For many years United Nations Agencies and leading donors, including USAID failed in their duties to control this disease and have wasted millions;
• AFM is a registered non-profit advocacy group that has acted as a malaria ‘watch dog’ ensuring that the hundreds of millions spent are put to good use and actually save lives
How AFM Works

• We work with scientists from numerous different organizations, institutes and governments to understand & communicate the latest & most effective technologies & research on malaria
How AFM Works

• We write in the popular media and peer reviewed journals and have built up a strong relationship with journalists from around the world.
How AFM works

• We work with think tanks and public policy research organizations to influence policy and effect change
How AFM Works

• We collaborate with other NGOs, faith based organizations, pressure groups and malaria control donors to keep the pressure up and demand change
Are we winning?

• USAID and WHO changes policy in line with AFM suggestions;
• Governments change policy – Uganda on IRS, Kenya on tariffs;
• We have a long way to go before malaria control policies are improved and children don’t die needlessly, but many agencies, including the World Bank, are also moving in the right direction;
• The momentum is behind us ... your assistance can keep us working & improving malaria control for the millions that don’t have a voice.
Help us to stop this...
Africa Fighting Malaria

www.fightingmalaria.org

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