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WORLD MALARIA DAY 2008

WFWO Call International Communities to React to Sustained Effort to fight Killer Disease

We are in leaving in year 2008 and the malaria still kills more than one million people in poor developing countries, mostly children, every year, "Malaria is a curable and preventable disease that can be controlled by increasing the use of mosquito nets and other proven interventions, as part of integrated, community-based programs."

Malaria is endemic in more than 100 countries and territories. It is "a disease without borders" this is the first theme year on World Malaria Day 2008, will increase global awareness about malaria but is not enough, will also contribute to significant rise in available resources over recent years coming , thanks to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the US government, Malaria Initiative, the World Bank, UNICEF and others UN special agencies and NGO's dealing with diseases. These funds are now facilitating the rapid improvements and scaling-up of malaria intervention coverage.

Since 2003, most African countries have switched to the more effective World Health Organization-recommended Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) to treat malaria. There has been a significant increase in global ACT production, from less than 4 million treatment doses in 2004 to over 100 million in 2006.

In 16 of the 20 African countries for which trend data is available the use of insecticide-treated nets has tripled since 2000. "In Ethiopia, 18 million long-lasting insecticidal nets that protect against malaria have been distributed since 2005, and in Kenya 10 million nets have been distributed in the past five years, "These successes show what can be achieved with concerted action. But with an estimated 800,000 African children still dying from malaria every year, it is clear that much remains to be done." What is needed is only action on global solidarity from all to achieve our objectives. If malaria is to be eliminated, interventions must be further scaled up, sustained financing must be made available, and community involvement and leadership must be encouraged, alongside stronger global, regional and national partnerships.