

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:

Interim Compliance Score

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
	-1	0	+1
Canada	-1		
France	-1		
Germany	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
Russia	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States	-1		
European Union	-1		
Average Score	-0.89		

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.⁶²⁸

⁶²⁸ 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.⁶²⁹ Previous G8 commitments have often been directed at the aforementioned three diseases as well as polio.⁶³⁰ NTDs, however, kill about 1.8 million people annually and affect upwards of one billion people worldwide. Leprosy, onchocerciasis, dengue, and leishmaniasis 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.⁶³¹

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.⁶³² 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.⁶³³

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.

Prevention can take many forms, from prophylaxis drug administration to improved water treatment. Prevention measures must be specifically identified as addressing neglected tropical diseases. For example, general programs to improve water quality do

⁶²⁹ 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.

⁶³⁰ 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.

⁶³¹ 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.

⁶³² 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>.

⁶³³ 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.

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.⁶³⁴ 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: -1

Canada has not complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). While Canada continues to fund prevention and control activities on through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), no new projects have been initiated in this compliance cycle.

CIDA is currently funding 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.⁶³⁵ This project has provided information and prevention education on several neglected tropical diseases.⁶³⁶ This funding is not new, and thus does not constitute compliance.

CIDA, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization, has provided CAD7.3 million for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases project in Colombia,

⁶³⁴ 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.

⁶³⁵ 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>.

⁶³⁶ 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>.

Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. This project targets various infectious diseases including one NTD, Chagas disease.⁶³⁷ Funding, however, was only committed through 2008.⁶³⁸

Finally, for 2006-2009, CIDA has provided close to CAD500,000 for the Community-based Epidemiological Surveillance project in El Salvador. This project conducts surveillance of dengue fever among children at risk.⁶³⁹ 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 2008.⁶⁴⁰ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁶⁴¹

Thus, Canada has been awarded a score of -1. While Canada continues to fund programs that address NTDs, it has not introduced any new initiatives in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Claire Chow

France: -1

France has not complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). France has not pursued prevention, treatment or research on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

In general, France is strong on international health issues, particularly HIV/AIDS treatment and research. Since 2005-2007, France has increased its contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by 33 per cent.⁶⁴²

In 2006, France committed almost EUR7.5 million to Drugs for Neglected Tropical Diseases Initiative, an NGO that coordinates drug research for NTDs.⁶⁴³ In its 2008

⁶³⁷ Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 18 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vLUWebProjEn/D28186F13972FB018525724B004C2DB2?OpenDocument>.

⁶³⁸ Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 18 December 2008. Date of Access: 18 December 2008. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vLUWebProjEn/D28186F13972FB018525724B004C2DB2?OpenDocument>.

⁶³⁹ 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>.

⁶⁴⁰ 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.

⁶⁴¹ 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>.

⁶⁴² France's Action Against AIDS, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et Européennes. Date of Access : 6 December 2008. http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities_1/health_1102/fighting-aids_4007/france-action-against-aids_6792/france-financial-contribution-to-the-fight-against-aids_12252.html.

⁶⁴³ The French Development Agency commits EUR1.5 million to DNDi, DNDi (Paris) 14 June 2006. Date of Access: 22 January 2009.

report, DMDi noted that it had received a little over EUR2 million of the funds promised.⁶⁴⁴ Furthermore, France has not taken any steps to combat NTDs in this compliance cycle. Ten EU member states adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁶⁴⁵ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁶⁴⁶

France adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁶⁴⁷ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁶⁴⁸

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

Analyst: Charlotte Freeman-Shaw

Germany: -1

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

On 10 December 2008, African Union health ministers specifically called on Germany to donate doses of praziquantel, a drug that effectively treats schistosomiasis.⁶⁴⁹ The ministers noted that neglected tropical diseases are threatening Africa's chances of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.⁶⁵⁰ Praziquantel is manufactured by The Merck Group, originally a German pharmaceutical company, which already donates

http://www.dndi.org/cms/public_html/insidearticleListing.asp?CategoryId=166&SubCategoryId=167&ArticleId=398&TemplateId=1.

⁶⁴⁴ 2007-2008 Annual Report: Delivering Innovation, DNDi (Geneva). Date of Access: 22 January 2009.

<http://www.dndi.org/2008/160908/DNDi-AnnualReport-2008.pdf>.

⁶⁴⁵ 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.

⁶⁴⁶ 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>.

⁶⁴⁷ 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.

⁶⁴⁸ 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>.

⁶⁴⁹ 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/african-ministers-petition-child-drugs>.

⁶⁵⁰ 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/african-ministers-petition-child-drugs>.

some praziquantel to developing countries through a partnership with the WHO.⁶⁵¹ 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 not complied with its commitment 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.⁶⁵² 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, which may run counter to this commitment. “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.”⁶⁵³

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

Analyst: Polina Arkhipova and Conrad Lochovsky

Japan: -1

Japan has not complied with its commitment 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.⁶⁵⁴ The Hashimoto Initiative specifically addressed schistosomiasis and lymphatic filariasis, both considered NTDs in this report.⁶⁵⁵ There is no evidence, however, that Japan has taken any action on NTDs in this compliance cycle.

⁶⁵¹ 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>.

⁶⁵² 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/Stampa/Sala_Stampa/Comunicati/2008/07/20080731_Scotto_140Mil_Coope_raz.

⁶⁵³ 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.

⁶⁵⁴ 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.

⁶⁵⁵ 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>.

Japan adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁶⁵⁶ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁶⁵⁷

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

Analyst: Stephan Bundi

Russia: -1

Russia has not complied 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

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). While the UK is actively pursuing the eradication of a number of tool-ready NTDs, it has not taken new action to encourage research into NTDs that are not tool-ready.

On 22 September 2008 the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) Secretary Douglas Alexander announced a GBP10 million funding increase to tackle Guinea worm, also known as dracunculiasis, in the five remaining African countries still fighting the disease: South Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, and Mali.⁶⁵⁸ Dracunculiasis is listed as a "tool-ready" disease targeted for eradication by the WHO's Global Plan.⁶⁵⁹

The new funding is part of DFID's long-term GBP50 million commitment to a number of NTDs, including trachoma and schistosomiasis.⁶⁶⁰ The funding will pay for water filters,

⁶⁵⁶ 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.

⁶⁵⁷ 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>.

⁶⁵⁸ 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>.

⁶⁵⁹ 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

⁶⁶⁰ 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>.

health workers, public education programs and medication, and could lead to the eradication of dracunculiasis.⁶⁶¹

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.⁶⁶² The Gates Foundation agreed to match DFID's existing commitment of GBP10 million.⁶⁶³ The new funds will be shared by the Carter Center and the WHO.⁶⁶⁴

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.⁶⁶⁵ There is no evidence that the UK committed more funds in this compliance cycle, however.

The United Kingdom adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁶⁶⁶ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁶⁶⁷

Thus, the UK has been awarded a score of 0 for funding prevention and treatment for tool-ready NTDs.

Analyst: Amy C. Willis

United States: -1

The United States has failed to comply with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). In recent years, NTDs have been a priority for the US, but further action has not been taken since the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit.

On 4 December 2008 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), committed USD600 thousand to combat the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe.⁶⁶⁸ On 11 December 2008, USAID provided an additional USD6.2 million and deployed a Disaster

⁶⁶¹ 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>.

⁶⁶² 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.

⁶⁶³ 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>.

⁶⁶⁴ 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>.

⁶⁶⁵ 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>.

⁶⁶⁶ 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.

⁶⁶⁷ 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>.

⁶⁶⁸ 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>.

Assistance Response Team (DART) to assist in the fight against Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak.⁶⁶⁹ 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.

On 20 February 2008 President Bush announced a new initiative to combat NTDs worldwide.⁶⁷⁰ At this time, President Bush committed USD350 million over a five year period (FY 2009 – FY 2013), in addition to the USD15 million already committed for 2008.⁶⁷¹ This funding will provide treatment to more than 300 million people worldwide.⁶⁷²

The Presidential Initiative will build on USAID's pledge to control NTDs by targeting seven major diseases as these are more easily controlled through mass drug administration in comparison to other NTDs.⁶⁷³ These diseases are lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, onchocerciasis, and three soil-transmitted helminthes.⁶⁷⁴ The United States has not expanded on these initiatives in this compliance cycle.

The United States adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁶⁷⁵ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁶⁷⁶

Thus, the United States has been awarded a score of -1 for failing to act on NTDs in this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Amy C. Willis

⁶⁶⁹ Press Release: USAID Provides Additional \$6.2M for Zimbabwe Cholera Outbreak, The United States Agency for International Development Press Office (Washington) 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 11 December 2008. <http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2008/pr081211.html>.

⁶⁷⁰ Fact Sheet: Fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases Around the World: President Bush Announces New Global Initiative To Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases, The White House, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 20 February 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/02/20080220.html>.

⁶⁷¹ Fact Sheet: Fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases Around the World: President Bush Announces New Global Initiative To Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases, The White House, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 20 February 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/02/20080220.html>.

⁶⁷² Fact Sheet: Development and Africa, The White House, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/07/20080708-17.html>.

⁶⁷³ Fact Sheet: USAID Controls Neglected Tropical Diseases, The United States Agency for International Development Press Office (Washington) 22 February 2008. Date of Access: 19 November 2008. <http://www.usaid.gov/press/factsheets/2008/fs080222.html>.

⁶⁷⁴ Fact Sheet: USAID Controls Neglected Tropical Diseases (Washington) 22 February 2008. Date of Access: 19 November 2008. <http://www.usaid.gov/press/factsheets/2008/fs080222.html>.

⁶⁷⁵ 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.

⁶⁷⁶ 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>.

European Union: -1

The EU has not complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

In the past, the EU has funded research into visceral leishmaniasis, the most severe form of that NTD.⁶⁷⁷ It has contributed to a program researching vectors for the disease on India and Bangladesh.⁶⁷⁸ There is no evidence that the EU has strengthened its commitment to this project during the current compliance cycle.

Ten EU member states adopted the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali on 19 November 2008.⁶⁷⁹ Article 14 calls for governments to support the research and development of products and technologies that target NTDs.⁶⁸⁰

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

Analyst: Claire Chow

⁶⁷⁷ 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>.

⁶⁷⁸ 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>.

⁶⁷⁹ 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.

⁶⁸⁰ 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>.