

## 4. Health: Neglected Tropical Diseases [18]

### Commitment:

*“We continue to support the control or elimination of high-burden Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).”*

- G8 Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings

### Assessment:

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
Russia		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union		0	
<b>Average Score</b>		<b>+0.22</b>	

### Background:

In the past, G8 commitments have focused on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and polio.<sup>276</sup> It was not until the 2006 St Petersburg Summit that the G8 leaders committed to address NTDs.<sup>277</sup> The commitment focused on expanding health care infrastructure in developing nations and combating future emerging infectious diseases.<sup>278</sup>

At the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, the commitment to fight NTDs was reaffirmed with particular attention given to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Plan to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases.<sup>279</sup> The WHO plan is comprised of nine strategic action areas emphasizing the need for: multi-intervention packages for disease control; strengthened health care infrastructure; access to diagnostic and preventative tools; and increased advocacy and resource mobilization among member states, including: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), relevant United Nations agencies, and pharmaceutical companies.<sup>280</sup> Nineteen diseases

<sup>276</sup> Health: Neglected Tropical Diseases, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) June 30, 2009. Date of Access: 5 November 2010. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2008compliance-final/11-08-healthneglected.pdf>.

<sup>277</sup> All G7/8 Commitments 1975-2006, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 2006. Date of Access: 5 November 2010. [http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8\\_commitments.pdf](http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments.pdf).

<sup>278</sup> All G7/8 Commitments 1975-2006, 2006. Date of Access: 5 November 2010. [http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8\\_commitments.pdf](http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments.pdf).

<sup>279</sup> 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: 5 November 2010. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-healthexperts.pdf>.

<sup>280</sup> 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: 5 November 2010. [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO\\_CDS\\_NTD\\_2007.3\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO_CDS_NTD_2007.3_eng.pdf).

were targeted by this plan, including: leprosy, rabies, yaws, and dengue.<sup>281</sup> In 2009, the G8 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fight infectious diseases at the L’Aquila Summit.<sup>282</sup>

**Commitment Features:**

This commitment reaffirms the G8 members’ ongoing commitment to control and eliminate NTDs. At the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, G8 leaders committed to support the treatment, control, and elimination of NTDs listed by the WHO through five measures: “research, diagnostics and treatment, prevention, awareness-raising, and enhancing access to safe water and sanitation.”<sup>283</sup>

These priority areas suggest that members should take action in two broad areas: first, treatment and prevention programs aimed at developing nations, and second, research to develop more effective methods for the treatment, control, and prevention of NTDs. Prevention measures may take several forms, including: effective treatment and control through drug administration; raising awareness about NTDs through advocacy programs; and strengthening community health-care systems.<sup>284</sup> For full compliance, members must address these two dimensions of the commitment and measures must explicitly address NTDs to constitute compliance.

For the purpose of this report, we use the NTDs outlined in the WHO’s 2005 — 2015 Global Plan: Anthrax, Blinding trachoma, Brucellosis, Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis), Cysticercosis, Dengue, Dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease), Echinococcosis, Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Japanese encephalitis, Leishmaniasis, Leprosy, Lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis), Onchocerciasis (river blindness), Rabies, Schistosomiasis, Soil-transmitted helminthiasis, Yaws.<sup>285</sup>

**Scoring Guidelines:**

-1	Member does not contribute any new funding or support to new or existing NTD programs <b>OR</b> cuts funding or support for initiatives.
0	Member continues to fund or support existing NTD programs, <b>BUT</b> does not increase funding or support to new and/or existing programs.
+1	Member increases funding or support to new and/or existing NTD programs, with an emphasis on the WHO’s five strategic action areas including: multi-intervention packages for disease control; strengthened health care infrastructure; access to diagnostic and preventative tools; and increased advocacy and resource mobilization among member states.

*Lead Analyst: Rebecca Blanchard*

<sup>281</sup> 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: 5 November 2010. [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO\\_CDS\\_NTD\\_2007.3\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO_CDS_NTD_2007.3_eng.pdf).

<sup>282</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, L’Aquila Summit, 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 5 November 2010. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html#health>.

<sup>283</sup> Development and Africa, Hokkaido Summit, 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 5 November 2010. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-africa.html>.

<sup>284</sup> Working to Overcome the Global Impact of Neglected Tropical Disease, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2010. Date of Access: 13 November 2010. [http://www.who.int/neglected\\_diseases/2010report/NTD\\_2010report\\_web.pdf](http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/2010report/NTD_2010report_web.pdf).

<sup>285</sup> 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: 5 November 2010. [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO\\_CDS\\_NTD\\_2007.3\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO_CDS_NTD_2007.3_eng.pdf).

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by increasing funding to existing and new NTD programs.

On 22 October 2010, the Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification gave the opening remarks at the 2010 Gairdner International Vaccine Symposium, reaffirming the Government of Canada's support of Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization — International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-INTERVAC).<sup>286</sup> VIDO-INTERVAC is an agency of the University of Saskatchewan which researches and develops vaccines targeted towards combating infectious diseases in animals and humans.<sup>287</sup>

In September 2010, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) pledged a maximum of CA\$18.8 million to the Republic of Honduras for the prevention and control of Chagas and Leishmaniasis Diseases.<sup>288</sup> The project's purpose is "to support reduction or elimination of the transmission of Chagas and Leishmaniasis diseases and to facilitate access to necessary treatment for vulnerable, priority populations."<sup>289</sup> CIDA is providing both technical and financial support.

On 24 January 2011, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) granted CA\$250,000 to a Montreal scientist researching parasitic disease treatment, with a focus on NTDs.<sup>290</sup> The researcher also received CA\$250,000 from Grand Challenges Canada through the Canadian government's Capital Development Innovation Fund.<sup>291</sup>

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

*Analyst: Aoife Quinn*

**France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) as it continues to support existing NTD programs but has not committed new funding or programs.

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<sup>286</sup> Government of Canada Recognizes International Symposium for Vaccine and Bioscience Research, Western Economic Development Canada (Saskatoon) 22 October 2010. Date of Access: 14 November 2010.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/articleeng.do?crtr.sj1D=&mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&nid=568379&crtr.dpt1D=&crtr.tp1D=&crtr.lc1D=&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.kw=disease&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.aud1D=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.dyndVI>

<sup>287</sup> Vision and Mission, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (Saskatoon) Date of Access: 19 November 2010. [http://www.vido.org/about\\_vido\\_intervac/vision\\_mission.php](http://www.vido.org/about_vido_intervac/vision_mission.php).

<sup>288</sup> Project profile for Prevention and Control of Chagas and Leishmaniasis Diseases, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 29 September 2010. Date of Access: 14 November 2010. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/cpo.nsf/vWebCSAZEn/B78C6255C77F2B9F8525771A0037135C>.

<sup>289</sup> Project profile for Prevention and Control of Chagas and Leishmaniasis Diseases, Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 29 September 2010. Date of Access: 14 November 2010. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/cpo.nsf/vWebCSAZEn/B78C6255C77F2B9F8525771A0037135C>.

<sup>290</sup> \$1 M grant to McGill scientist for parasite fight, CBC News (Montreal) 24 January 2011. Date of Access: 5 February 2011. <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2011/01/24/parasite-tropical-disease.html>.

<sup>291</sup> \$1 M grant to McGill scientist for parasite fight, CBC News (Montreal) 24 January 2011. Date of Access: 5 February 2011. <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2011/01/24/parasite-tropical-disease.html>.

On 3 December 2010, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance) launched a five-year campaign to provide children with immunization against various diseases including certain NTDs.<sup>292</sup> France has agreed to work with the United Kingdom to garner support for the event.<sup>293</sup> In 2006, France made an initial commitment of €373 million to the International Finance Facility for Immunization.<sup>294</sup> A second pledge was made in 2007 for 19 years which raises France's total commitment to research and development to €1.24 billion.<sup>295</sup>

On 16 December 2010, the French Development Agency (AFD) approved €8 million in funding towards producing immunizations against yellow fever.<sup>296</sup> As yellow fever is not one of the NTDs targeted in the WHO Plan, this project does not count towards compliance. In October 2010, Member of Parliament, Guy Lefrand attended the World Health Summit in Berlin with members of France's academic community and representatives from French funding agencies, though no funding commitments directly related to NTDs were made.<sup>297</sup>

Thus, France has been awarded a score of 0 for its continued support for existing NTD programs.

*Analyst: Rebecca Blanchard*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has complied with its commitment on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by increasing funding to new initiatives.

In October 2010, at the annual World Health Summit held in Berlin, Germany committed €20 million over the next four years towards research and development aimed at combating NTDs.<sup>298</sup> The German Federal Ministry of Education (BMBF) announced that funding priorities will include research on neglected tropical diseases, particularly those that affect pregnant women and children in developing countries.<sup>299</sup>

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<sup>292</sup> GAVI Alliance set to save four million lives by 2015, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (Kigali) 1 December 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010.

[http://www.gavialliance.org/media\\_centre/press\\_releases/gavi\\_board\\_kigali.php](http://www.gavialliance.org/media_centre/press_releases/gavi_board_kigali.php).

<sup>293</sup> GAVI Alliance set to save four million lives by 2015, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (New York) 1 December 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010.

[http://www.gavialliance.org/media\\_centre/press\\_releases/gavi\\_board\\_kigali.php](http://www.gavialliance.org/media_centre/press_releases/gavi_board_kigali.php).

<sup>294</sup> Donor Contributions & Commitments, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (New York) Date of Access: 30 December 2010. <http://www.gavialliance.org/about/donors/index.php>.

<sup>295</sup> Donor Contributions & Commitments, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (New York) Date of Access: 30 December 2010. <http://www.gavialliance.org/about/donors/index.php>.

<sup>296</sup> Un dernier Conseil d'Administration très chargé, une activité très importante : l'AFD déploie près de 1.7 milliard d'euros en faveur du développement, Agence française de développement (Paris) 16 December 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010. <http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/site/afd/lang/fr/CA-Etats-Etrangers-16-12-2010>.

<sup>297</sup> World Health Summit: Speakers and Featured Participants, Charité Berlin (Berlin) Date of Access: 30 December 2010.

<http://www.worldhealthsummit.org/fileadmin/downloads/Newsletter11/WHS%202010%20Featured%20Participants.pdf>.

<sup>298</sup> Germany to give €20M to neglected disease research, Medicines for Malaria Venture (Berlin) 20 October 2010. Date of Access: 22 November 2010. <http://www.mmv.org/newsroom/news/germany-give-€20m-neglected-disease-research>.

<sup>299</sup> Germany to give €20M to neglected disease research, Medicines for Malaria Venture (Berlin) 20 October 2010. Date of Access: 22 November 2010. <http://www.mmv.org/newsroom/news/germany-give-€20m-neglected-disease-research>.

Germany also contributed US\$4 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance) in 2010.<sup>300</sup> However, this commitment was a part of US\$22 million from 2006-2010, and does not constitute compliance. The GAVI Alliance is a global health partnership that works towards providing treatment and research and development into immunizations for various diseases, including certain NTDs.<sup>301</sup>

Though praziquantel, the only commercially available treatment for schistosomiasis, was developed in Germany in the 1970s, the government has “failed to find a mechanism by which to establish an urgently needed public-private partnership in order to fully donate this desperately needed drug for Africa.”<sup>302</sup>

Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of +1 for its action in addressing research towards combating NTDs.

*Analyst: Catherine Cantral*

### **Italy: -1**

Italy has not complied with its commitment to pursue prevention, treatment and research on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

On 18 November 2010, the “4 stars for Uganda” initiative was announced.<sup>303</sup> This project will allow doctors and nurses from the Italian Army, Navy, Air Force and Carabinieri to work together in Africa and bring health care to some of the most underprivileged in the world.<sup>304</sup> This collaboration between the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Avsi Foundation will allow 20 military personnel, including doctors, health and logistics staff, to travel to Uganda with 20 tons of food and pharmaceutical materials.<sup>305</sup> “The mission schedule envisages medical check-ups and general, endoscopic, gynaecological and orthopaedic surgical operations, as well as laboratory testing.”<sup>306</sup> This endeavour represents a step forward in improving international health systems, though does not constitute compliance.

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<sup>300</sup> Donor Contributions & Commitments, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (New York) Date of Access: 19 November 2010. <http://www.gavialliance.org/about/donors/index.php>.

<sup>301</sup> Donor Contributions & Commitments, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (New York) Date of Access: 19 November 2010. <http://www.gavialliance.org/about/donors/index.php>.

<sup>302</sup> Lifesaving Drug Praziquantel Too Expensive for Africa, Miller-McCune. 3 October 2010. Date of access: 22 November 2010. <http://www.miller-mccune.com/health/lifesaving-drug-praziquantel-too-expensive-for-africa-23538/>.

<sup>303</sup> Uganda: “System Italy” takes action on health aid for Kitgum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 18 November 2010. Date of Access: 9 December 2010. [http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala\\_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/11/20101118\\_Uganda.htm?LANG=EN](http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/11/20101118_Uganda.htm?LANG=EN).

<sup>304</sup> Uganda: “System Italy” takes action on health aid for Kitgum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 18 November 2010. Date of Access: 9 December 2010. [http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala\\_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/11/20101118\\_Uganda.htm?LANG=EN](http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/11/20101118_Uganda.htm?LANG=EN).

<sup>305</sup> Uganda: “System Italy” takes action on health aid for Kitgum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 18 November 2010. Date of Access: 9 December 2010. [http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala\\_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/11/20101118\\_Uganda.htm?LANG=EN](http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/11/20101118_Uganda.htm?LANG=EN).

<sup>306</sup> Uganda: “System Italy” takes action on health aid for Kitgum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 18 November 2010. Date of Access: 9 December 2010. [http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala\\_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/11/20101118\\_Uganda.htm?LANG=EN](http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/11/20101118_Uganda.htm?LANG=EN).

Italy continues to provide funding to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance) under its 2006 commitment to provide €473.5 million over 20 years.<sup>307</sup> The GAVI alliance is a global health partnership, which works towards providing immunizations in developing countries and research and development into immunizations for a variety of diseases including certain NTDs.

On 25 August 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release, which outlined Italy's development commitments in 2010 for various countries. In Somalia, future initiatives would target "the worst problems in the shelter, water, health and education sectors."<sup>308</sup> These initiatives do not explicitly mention NTDs, and therefore they do not constitute compliance.

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

*Analyst: Aoife Quinn*

### **Japan: -1**

Japan has not complied with its commitment to pursue prevention, treatment and research on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

On 22 November 2010, Eisai, a Japanese pharmaceutical company, signed a statement of intent with the World Health Organization (WHO) to supply treatment of lymphatic filariasis.<sup>309</sup> This endeavour represents the first time a Japanese pharmaceutical company has established a partnership to combat neglected tropical diseases.<sup>310</sup> Eisai is also partnered with the DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Disease initiative) and is working towards developing a treatment for Chagas disease.<sup>311</sup> However, these actions have not been made in conjunction with the Japanese government, and as such cannot be counted as compliance.

The Japanese government has taken considerable initiative in the past to combat NTDs. By proposing the Hashimoto Initiative and the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative, Japan

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<sup>307</sup> Donor Contributions & Commitments, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (New York)

Date of Access: 19 November 2010. <http://www.gavialliance.org/about/donors/index.php>.

<sup>308</sup> Somalia: Italy's role for regional stability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 25 August 2010. Date of Access: 14 November 2010.

[http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/08/20100825\\_Somalia.htm?LANG=EN](http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Approfondimenti/2010/08/20100825_Somalia.htm?LANG=EN).

<sup>309</sup> WHO and Japan target tropical disease, Hospital Pharmacy Europe (London) 22 November 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010.

<http://www.pharmacyeurope.net/default.asp?title=WHOandJapantargettropicaldisease&page=article.display&article.id=23705>.

<sup>310</sup> WHO and Japan target tropical disease, Hospital Pharmacy Europe (London) 22 November 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010.

<http://www.pharmacyeurope.net/default.asp?title=WHOandJapantargettropicaldisease&page=article.display&article.id=23705>.

<sup>311</sup> Eisai supplies free tablets to WHO for elephantiasis, PharmaTimes (London) 26 November 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010. [http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/10-11-26/Eisai\\_supplies\\_free\\_tablets\\_to\\_WHO-for\\_elephantiasis.aspx](http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/10-11-26/Eisai_supplies_free_tablets_to_WHO-for_elephantiasis.aspx).

established itself as one of the leading nations against infectious diseases.<sup>312</sup> Since establishing these protocols, Japan has only provided additional funds for global parasite control.<sup>313</sup>

In the USAID-Japan Partnership for Global Health Action Plan for 2009-2010, Japan sought to combat NTDs by “enhancing access to safe water and sanitation, improving hygiene practices, as well as technical assistance to raise awareness and promote desirable behaviour.”<sup>314</sup> However, no new funding or research initiatives have been explicitly stated.

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

*Analyst: Asma Rafiquddin*

### **Russia: 0**

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

On 13 September 2010, the Russian Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin reaffirmed a commitment to fight neglected tropical diseases and reiterated past contributions for the production and supply of “modern equipment and medicine to diagnose and prevent the spread” of neglected tropical diseases.<sup>315</sup>

On 20 October 2010, the Head of the Russian Federal Service for the Oversight of Consumer Protection and Welfare (Rospotrebnadzor) ordered the Rospotrebnadzor staff and the Central Research Institute of Epidemiology of the Rospotrebnadzor to prepare proposals on technical assistance to build capacity of CIS countries’ laboratories in 2011-2012. This initiative is in line with the Russian Government Executive Order No. 1426-r of 2 October 2010 on Russia’s participation in the G8 initiative to fight neglected tropical diseases.<sup>316</sup>

Thus, Russia has been awarded a score of 0 for providing continued support for NTD programs but for not contributing any new funding to NTD programs.

*Analyst: Yuriy Zaytsev*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

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

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<sup>312</sup> Country Performance Assessment, Japan, From Okinawa 2000 to Genoa 2001, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 February 2007. Date of Access: 13 November 2010.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2001genoa/assessment\\_japan.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2001genoa/assessment_japan.html).

<sup>313</sup> Neglected Tropical Disease Control in the “Post-American World”, Public Library of Science (Washington) 31 August 2010. Date of Access: 14 November 2010.

[http://www.sabin.org/files/attachment/Peter%20Hotez\\_Neglected%20Tropical%20Disease%20Control%20in%20the%20Post-American%20World\\_PLoS\\_8-31-10.pdf](http://www.sabin.org/files/attachment/Peter%20Hotez_Neglected%20Tropical%20Disease%20Control%20in%20the%20Post-American%20World_PLoS_8-31-10.pdf).

<sup>314</sup> USAID-Japan Partnership for Global Health Action Plan 2009-2010, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo). Date of Access: 13 November 2010.

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/bunya/health/pdfs/jus\\_ap\\_e.pdf](http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/bunya/health/pdfs/jus_ap_e.pdf).

<sup>315</sup> Prime Minister Vladimir Putin addresses the 60th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Prime Minister of Russia (Moscow) 13 September 2010. Date of Access: 21 January 2011.

<http://premier.gov.ru/eng/events/news/12158/>.

<sup>316</sup> Order No. 373 of 20 October 2010. Russian Federal Service for the Oversight of Consumer Protection and Welfare, 20 October 2010. Date of Access: 10 January 2010.

[http://rospotrebnadzor.ru/c/journal/view\\_article\\_content?groupId=10156&articleId=34276](http://rospotrebnadzor.ru/c/journal/view_article_content?groupId=10156&articleId=34276).

On 9 October 2010, International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell announced that the Department for International Development (DFID) will commit £25 million for the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (SCI) for use over the next five years.<sup>317</sup> This funding will provide 75 million treatment kits against Schistosomiasis, each consisting of one oral dose. Seventy-five per cent of the treatments will treat children in high-risk rural areas in eight of Africa's poorest countries.<sup>318</sup> In addition, the SCI will be assisted by the Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in delivering the drugs.<sup>319</sup> Through this initiative, six countries will receive treatment for lymphatic filariasis integrated with the schistosomiasis treatment.<sup>320</sup>

On 1 December 2010, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI Alliance) approved a business plan geared towards vaccinating approximately 240 million children.<sup>321</sup> The UK has offered to co-host the June 2011 pledging conference with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which will be held in London.<sup>322</sup> The GAVI Alliance is a global health partnership, which works towards providing immunizations in developing countries and research and development into immunizations for a variety of diseases including NTDs.<sup>323</sup>

Thus, the United Kingdom has been awarded a score of +1 for its funding commitments to prevention and treatment of NTDs, and research towards developing cost-effective tools with which to combat NTDs.

*Analyst: Tine Elgsaether*

#### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to combating neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by funding medical research.

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<sup>317</sup> Imperial initiative to protect children from tropical disease awarded £25m government backing, Imperial College London (London) 12 October 2010. Date of Access: 18 October 2010.

<sup>318</sup> Imperial initiative to protect children from tropical disease awarded £25m government backing, Imperial College London (London) 12 October 2010. Date of Access: 18 October 2010.  
[http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news\\_12-10-2010-10-14-59](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news_12-10-2010-10-14-59).

<sup>319</sup> Imperial initiative to protect children from tropical disease awarded £25m government backing, Imperial College London (London) 12 October 2010. Date of Access: 18 October 2010.  
[http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news\\_12-10-2010-10-14-59](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news_12-10-2010-10-14-59).

<sup>320</sup> Imperial initiative to protect children from tropical disease awarded £25m government backing, Imperial College London (London) 12 October 2010. Date of Access: 18 October 2010.  
[http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news\\_12-10-2010-10-14-59](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news_12-10-2010-10-14-59).

<sup>321</sup> GAVI Alliance set to save four million lives by 2015, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (Kigali) 1 December 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010.  
[http://www.gavialliance.org/media\\_centre/press\\_releases/gavi\\_board\\_kigali.php](http://www.gavialliance.org/media_centre/press_releases/gavi_board_kigali.php).

<sup>322</sup> GAVI Alliance set to save four million lives by 2015, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (Kigali) 1 December 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010.  
[http://www.gavialliance.org/media\\_centre/press\\_releases/gavi\\_board\\_kigali.php](http://www.gavialliance.org/media_centre/press_releases/gavi_board_kigali.php).

<sup>323</sup> GAVI Alliance donors and partners agree to first pledging conference in June 2011 and announce early commitments, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (New York) 6 October 2010. Date of Access: 30 December 2010. [http://www.gavialliance.org/media\\_centre/statements/call\\_for\\_action.php](http://www.gavialliance.org/media_centre/statements/call_for_action.php).



The United States is continuing activity through its Global Health Initiative introduced in 2009 and through USAID's Neglected Tropical Disease Program.<sup>324</sup> In July 2010 the State/Foreign Operations Appropriations bill was passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee which included US\$100 million to the Global Health Initiative that includes combating NTDs.<sup>325</sup>

President Barack Obama has also requested US\$155 million for NTDs in the Foreign Operations Congressional Budget Justification for the fiscal year of 2011.<sup>326</sup> This request is the largest presidential request for funding for NTDs to date.<sup>327</sup>

On 9 August 2010 the National Institutes of Health through the US Department of Health and Human Services, announced that it would begin a Human Clinical Trial of a dengue vaccine developed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.<sup>328</sup> There is currently no vaccine available to prevent dengue infection or to treat those who have the infection.<sup>329</sup>

On 22 September 2010, President Obama signed a Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development.<sup>330</sup> This directive calls for increased investment and scaling up of development technologies for neglected diseases. The Presidential Policy Directive will be implemented "beginning with the Fiscal Year 2012 budget process."<sup>331</sup>

On 7 October 2010, the National Institutes of Health announced funding for three new contracts into research for immunizations for anthrax and dengue.<sup>332</sup> The total funding of the three projects is US\$68 million, which is dependent on the successful completion of defined project goals.<sup>333</sup> The research is meant to develop vaccines that could protect against biological attacks and focuses on quick deployment of treatment. Nevertheless, "the goal is to be able to use these

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<sup>324</sup> About the Neglected Tropical Disease program, USAID's Neglected Tropical Disease Program. Date of Access: 19 October 2010. <http://www.neglecteddiseases.gov/about/index.html>.

<sup>325</sup> Neglected Tropical Diseases summary, FY2011 Foreign Operations Congressional Budget Justification Volume 2 (Washington). Date of Access: 19 October 2010. [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PCAAC013.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PCAAC013.pdf).

<sup>326</sup> Neglected Tropical Diseases summary, FY2011 Foreign Operations Congressional Budget Justification Volume 2 (Washington). Date of Access: 19 October 2010. [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PCAAC013.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PCAAC013.pdf).

<sup>327</sup> About the Neglected Tropical Disease program, USAID's Neglected Tropical Disease Program. Date of Access: 19 October 2010. <http://www.neglecteddiseases.gov/about/index.html>.

<sup>328</sup> Human Clinical Trial of NIH-developed Dengue Vaccine Begins, National Institute of Health News (Bethesda) 9 August 2010. Date of Access: 10 December 2010.

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2010/Pages/denguevaxtrial.aspx>.

<sup>329</sup> Human Clinical Trial of NIH-developed Dengue Vaccine Begins, National Institute of Health News. Date of Access: 10 December 2010.

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2010/Pages/denguevaxtrial.aspx>.

<sup>330</sup> Fact Sheet: U.S. Global Development Policy, The White House Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 22 September 2010. Date of Access: 10 December 2010. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/22/fact-sheet-us-global-development-policy>.

<sup>331</sup> Fact Sheet: U.S. Global Development Policy, The White House Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 22 September 2010. Date of Access: 10 December 2010. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/22/fact-sheet-us-global-development-policy>.

<sup>332</sup> NIH Funds Advanced Development of Three Biodefense Vaccines -Research to Focus on Improving Delivery of Dengue and Anthrax Vaccines, National Institute of Health News (Bethesda) 7 October 2010. Date of Access: 10 December 2010.

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2010/Pages/biodefenseVax.aspx>.

<sup>333</sup> NIH Funds Advanced Development of Three Biodefense Vaccines -Research to Focus on Improving Delivery of Dengue and Anthrax Vaccines, National Institute of Health News(Bethesda) Date of Access: 10 December 2010. <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2010/Pages/biodefenseVax.aspx>.

vaccine technologies not just in response to emergencies, but worldwide in a variety of situations.”<sup>334</sup>

Thus, the United States has been awarded a compliance score of +1 for increasing funding to research programs aimed at combating Neglected Tropical Diseases.

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### **European Union: 0**

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment concerning neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

The European Commission (EC) is continuing to provide funding and support to “collaborative research projects”<sup>335</sup> focusing on “research and development to improve existing and develop new approaches for preventing, diagnosing, treating and controlling neglected tropical diseases”<sup>336</sup> during its Seventh Framework Program (FP7), launched in 2007 and coming to a close in 2013.<sup>337</sup>

On 24 September 2010, the Institut Pasteur hosted the EC conference on neglected protozoan diseases.<sup>338</sup> Eight research projects were presented which have all subsequently been funded by the EC.<sup>339</sup> However, according to Anna Lonnroth, Directorate-General for Research at the EC, neglected infectious diseases is not priority area for 2011 in disease research.<sup>340</sup> There are expectations that new funding proposals targeting NTDs will be approved in 2012 and 2013.<sup>341</sup>

In September 2010, the EU was called upon to institute its own version of the priority review voucher system that has been implemented in the United States.<sup>342</sup> The voucher system is aimed at providing incentives to pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs for treating tropical diseases, by allowing those companies to be eligible for accelerated pricing and reimbursement for their more profitable drugs. As developing drugs to treat tropical and infectious diseases is not

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<sup>334</sup> NIH Funds Advanced Development of Three Biodefense Vaccines -Research to Focus on Improving Delivery of Dengue and Anthrax Vaccines, National Institute of Health News (Bethesda) Date of Access: 10 December 2010. <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2010/Pages/biodefenseVax.aspx>.

<sup>335</sup> Neglected Infectious Diseases, European Commission (Brussels) Date of Access: 9 February 2011. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-leaflet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-leaflet_en.pdf).

<sup>336</sup> Neglected Infectious Diseases, European Commission (Brussels) Date of Access: 9 February 2011. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-leaflet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-leaflet_en.pdf).

<sup>337</sup> Neglected Infectious Diseases, European Commission (Brussels) Date of Access: 9 February 2011. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-leaflet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-leaflet_en.pdf).

<sup>338</sup> Confronting neglected protozoan diseases: understanding the challenges, developing the solutions, TropIKA.net. 16 November 2010. Date of Access: 9 February 2011. <http://www.tropika.net/svc/news/20101116/Chinnock-20101116-News-Negl-Protozoa>.

<sup>339</sup> Confronting neglected protozoan diseases: understanding the challenges, developing the solutions, TropIKA.net. 16 November 2010. Date of Access: 9 February 2011. <http://www.tropika.net/svc/news/20101116/Chinnock-20101116-News-Negl-Protozoa>.

<sup>340</sup> European Research in Neglected Infectious Diseases, Anna Lonnroth (Brussels) 24 September 2010. Date of Access: 9 February 2011. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-conference/anna-lonnroth\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-conference/anna-lonnroth_en.pdf).

<sup>341</sup> European Research in Neglected Infectious Diseases, Anna Lonnroth (Brussels) 24 September 2010. Date of Access: 9 February 2011. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-conference/anna-lonnroth\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/pdf/nid-conference/anna-lonnroth_en.pdf).

<sup>342</sup> European Union could create incentive for new drug treatments, experts propose, ScienceDaily (Bonn) 9 September 2010. Date of Access: 22 November 2010. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100909193359.htm>.

seen as profitable by pharmaceutical companies, the hope is that the voucher system would provide enough incentive to motivate more research by these companies.<sup>343</sup> The implementation of the voucher system was discussed at the European Forum for Good Clinical Practice in September, but since only one product has been produced through the U.S. system, it was found that there is insufficient evidence as to whether the program is effective.<sup>344</sup>

The EU is also working to sign a free-trade agreement with India, which many fear will reduce access to the affordable generic medications that are produced in India.<sup>345</sup> Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has launched a campaign to stop the EU from signing the trade agreement, arguing that it will restrict their access to anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs).<sup>346</sup> On 10 December 2010, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso announced that the agreement will be signed in 2011.<sup>347</sup>

Thus, the EU has been awarded a score of 0 for continuing to fund existing NTD programs geared towards treatment, prevention or research.

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<sup>343</sup> European Union could create incentive for new drug treatments, experts propose, ScienceDaily (Bonn) 9 September 2010. Date of Access: 22 November 2010. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100909193359.htm>.

<sup>344</sup> EFGCP Children's Medicines Working Party 6th Annual Conference & DIA Paediatric SIAC 4th Forum Meeting Report, European Forum for Good Clinical Practice (London) 29 September 2010. Date of Access: 10 December 2010. <http://www.efgcp.be/Downloads/confDocuments/EFGCP-DIA%20Paed%20Annual%20Conf%202010%20-%20Report%20Fin.pdf>.

<sup>345</sup> MSF wants EU's 'hands off' life-saving generic drugs, Deutsche Welle. 18 November 2010. Date of Access: 22 November 2010. <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,6243876,00.html>.

<sup>346</sup> MSF wants EU's 'hands off' life-saving generic drugs, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 18 November 2010. Date of Access: 22 November 2010. <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,6243876,00.html>.

<sup>347</sup> EU, India close in on free trade deal, The Daily Caller (Brussels) 10 December 2010. Date of Access: 10 December 2010. <http://dailycaller.com/2010/12/10/eu-india-close-in-on-free-trade-deal/>.