



July 6, 2009

U.S. Government Donates 1.6 Million Doses of Malaria Medication to the GOSS

Robert E. Whitehead, Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum Sudan, today presented more than 1.6 million doses of medication to the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) to be used for malaria treatment throughout the southern region. The anti-malarials, which will be used at primary health-care facilities, were donated by the United States Government, acting through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The new medications will help to save lives during the current period of high malaria transmission that accompanies the rainy season.

Malaria is the number one killer of children in Southern Sudan, and is particularly prevalent in those under five years of age. To ensure effective management of the disease, GOSS’s Ministry of Health has updated its malaria treatment policy and adopted an Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) as the first line of treatment. The ACTs donated by USAID are highly effective and recommended by the World Health Organization and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership for treatment in areas such as Southern Sudan, where resistance of malaria parasites to other drugs is high.

USAID has worked closely with the GOSS Ministry of Health to set up the National Malaria Control Program and to implement its National Malaria Strategic Plan. This year alone, USAID is providing US\$3.7 million for these efforts, which includes today’s donation of 1.6 million doses of ACTs. These anti-malarials will be sufficient to meet countrywide malaria treatment needs for up to six months.

Chargé d’Affaires Whitehead concluded his remarks by saying: “This assistance comes directly from the American people, who, as your partners, are helping to build a brighter future for southern Sudan.”

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