



Press bulletin

MINISTER KOENDERS: "COLLABORATION STARTING POINT MALARIA CONTROL"

Africa Malaria Day 2007 kick-off Malaria no More! Netherlands

The Hague, April 26, 2007

Yesterday at the interactive press meeting Minister of Development Coordination Bert Koenders gave the official start signal for the foundation Malaria No More! Netherlands. The meeting took place on the occasion of Africa Malaria Day 2007, which is celebrated worldwide on April 25. In the company of Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa, Mr Joost van Roost, CEO Exxon Mobil Benelux and Mr Fred Matser, initiator Malaria no More! Netherlands, Minister Koenders completed a puzzle of the globe together with the two African children Marc and Tumu by placing the missing pieces of Africa and the Netherlands, symbolizing the start of Malaria no More! Netherlands. Exxon Mobil Benelux announced a generous donation to malaria control of 7 million US dollar.

Attending the meeting were also representatives of the embassy of Uganda Ms Mirjam Blaak; Mr Rodrigo Pedro Domingos, General Consulate of Angola; the counsellor of the embassy of Rwanda, Enid Mbabazi; the ambassador of Algeria H.E.M.R Said Moussi and representative of the embassy of Kenya Ms Pamela E.A. Otenyo.

Koenders about malaria

Minister Bert Koenders emphasized in his speech that the effects of malaria in Africa can be sustainably controlled if all sectors are working together. *"It can only be done by working together"*, Koenders. Next Minister Koenders called on those present to join forces and to use their collective knowledge and funds to control Malaria. *"Spending on health is the key issue for the future of children, of people, of the local economies, of countries"*, Koenders.

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Exxon Mobil donates 7 million dollar

"As one of the largest foreign investors in Africa, Exxon Mobil experiences directly how disrupting malaria is", Joost van Roost, CEO Exxon Mobil Benelux. The Exxon Mobil Foundation donates 4 million dollars to malaria control, and an additional 3 million dollar maximum to Malaria no More US. The donation is made in the form of a Challenge Grant; every donation to Malaria no More US is doubled by the Exxon Mobile Foundation. 'We are sincerely glad that we can make a contribution to finding the necessary resources and innovative solutions and promoting worldwide collaboration to get results in the fight against malaria', Rex Tillerson, CEO Exxon Mobile Corporation, on the occasion of Africa Malaria Day.

Julia Samuël spreads 27.600 bed nets

At the meeting a live connection was made with Julia Samuël, who momentarily is spreading bed nets in Angola for the foundation Drive against Malaria. In a conversation with Mr Rodrigo Pedro Domingos, General Consulate of Angola, Julia told about the amazingly positive results she gets from collaborating internationally. Currently the action "Drive Against Malaria" has distributed 27.600 bed nets in Africa. *"We have to work together, this is the proof of a successful fight against malaria", Julia Samuël, who last year herself was infected with malaria. The journey of Drive Against Malaria is among others supported by Tropicare, Landrover and Exxon Mobil.*

Collaboration at NGO's and other institutions

At the meeting a clear direction was formulated that organisations active in the field of malaria control want to join forces. The Dutch Red Cross, of whom among others Cees Breederveld was present, UNICEF Netherlands, Ms Eveline Meltzer, AMREF Flying Doctors under the guidance of Ms Jacqueline Lampe, Memisa/Cordaid, of whom Ms Monique Lagro was present, Drive Against Malaria (via a live connection), The Royal Tropical Institute, represented by Rolf Wijnstra, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Harry van Schooten, Mr Henny Helmich of the NCDO and others present. All emphasized that collaboration will lead to a sustainable result in the fight against malaria.

Malaria no More! Netherlands

With a passionate inaugural speech Fred Matser opened the meeting. Matser, once infected by malaria tropicana, called on all people present to combine knowledge, expertise, passion and funds and to find solutions together in the fight against malaria.

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