March 4, 2015

To: Chancellor Angela Merkel, Federal Republic of Germany, President of the 2015 G7
Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, Japan
Prime Minister David Cameron, United Kingdom
Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Canada
President François Hollande, Republic of France
President Barack Obama, United States of America
Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, Republic of Italy

Cc: G7 Foreign Ministers and G7 Sherpas

Your Excellencies:

Ahead of the 2015 G7 Summit, we would like to applaud G7 leaders for putting global health, particularly neglected and poverty-related diseases, at the forefront of the G7’s development agenda this year.

Together, we represent a group of experts, advocates, researchers and implementing partners from public and private sector organizations that share a vision of a world free of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Our work is underpinned by the landmark 2012 London Declaration on NTDs, which captures our commitment to accelerate progress towards the World Health Organization’s (WHO) 2020 control and elimination targets. We are writing to urge you to sustain current funding levels for NTD control and elimination efforts, and implement a collective plan of action to fill the remaining gaps to ensure we reach all people at risk from NTDs.

These bacterial, viral and parasitic infections, which affect the health and economic futures of nearly 1.9 billion people across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, thrive in communities that lack access to health services, adequate sanitation and clean water. These infections can cause blindness, crippling physical disfigurements and increased susceptibility to HIV, exposing people to social stigma and discrimination. Without treatment, children face stunted growth and cognitive delays, posing a serious threat to their education. Moreover, there are approximately 44 million pregnant women infected with hookworms who are more likely to suffer from anemia and deliver low birthweight newborns – putting both mothers and babies at risk of mortality.

These detrimental health consequences have a spillover effect on the economic progress of families and communities, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. In short, these diseases are inextricably linked to maternal, newborn and child health; poverty; and inequality, requiring a comprehensive, holistic solution.

We enthusiastically welcome the G7’s leadership on NTDs this year, which builds on the G7’s longstanding commitments to tackle this problem, notably the historic Hashimoto Initiative, the first international parasitic disease control initiative, established during the 1998 Birmingham Summit. This paved the way for the G7’s ongoing support for research and diagnostics, in addition to treatment and prevention efforts.

---

1 The World Health Organization lists 17 neglected tropical diseases: Dengue, rabies, blinding trachoma, Buruli ulcer, endemic treponematoses (yaws), leprosy (Hansen disease), Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), leishmaniasis, cysticercosis, dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease), echinococcosis, foodborne trematode infections, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis (river blindness), schistosomiasis (bilharziasis), soil-transmitted helminthiases (intestinal worms). The WHO recommends an integrated approach to overcoming the global impact of NTDs through five interventions: innovative and intensified disease management; preventive chemotherapy; vector ecology and management; veterinary public-health services; and the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Investing to Overcome the Global Impact of Neglected Tropical Diseases: Third WHO Report on neglected tropical diseases, 2015.
Major pharmaceutical companies have established a superb track record of leadership in the effort to control and eliminate NTDs, donating 2.5 billion treatments in 2012 and 2013 alone. Partners are working tirelessly to make sure that these treatments reach the people who need them, alongside over 70 endemic countries that have demonstrated ownership of this issue by developing dedicated, integrated plans to fight NTDs.

These are all steps in the right direction, however a $220 million global annual funding gap for treatment continues to stand in the way of reaching the WHO 2020 targets. We urge the G7 to scale up investments now to ensure that programs are able to reach all affected populations, while also sustaining progress made thus far. Looking forward, the G7 and partners should ensure universal coverage against these diseases, an effort that will lead to measurable progress towards the elimination of extreme poverty; improved maternal and child health outcomes; and enhanced economic growth. Equally important, prioritizing NTDs will set the stage for success in achieving the proposed 2030 sustainable development goals.

To meet this need, the G7 should sustain current funding levels for neglected tropical disease control and elimination efforts, and implement a collective plan of action to fill the remaining gaps:

- **Scale up access to existing treatments through mass drug administration and multisectoral approaches:** Currently, just over 40 percent of people at risk of NTDs worldwide are being reached by treatment programs. Therefore, additional investment is essential to ensure coverage of those affected. G7 leaders can advance progress towards their [2008 Hokkaido Toyako commitment] by reaching 75% of the people affected by NTDs through cost-effective, integrated approaches like mass drug administration – a bundled packet of NTD treatments that can be delivered through community-based platforms, including schools. In addition, the G7 should invest in multisectoral approaches that integrate NTD control and elimination activities alongside efforts to improve maternal and child health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, reaching more people in need with a greater impact.

- **Invest in new, innovative technologies and approaches:** While we must continue to utilize these cost-effective, high-impact treatments, some NTDs require increased investment in new innovative technologies including drugs, diagnostics, vaccines and pesticides. One possible avenue for research and development support is through product development partnerships that can facilitate exchange of expertise and scientific knowledge to develop products for diseases that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations.

Yours respectfully,

Aeras

Africa Japan Forum (Tokyo, Japan)
Ms. Naoko Tsuyama, President

African Research Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases

Dr. Uche Amazigo
Former Director of the World Health Organization African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control
Founder and CEO of the Pan-African Community Initiative on Education and Health

American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
Michael Devoy, Global Medical Affairs & Pharmacovigilance
Tebebe Yemane Berhan  MD, Ph.D
The Hon. World Laureate Dr. Mes.
Lions Clubs International Foundation, Steering Committee Member, Representing Africa

cbm Canada
Mitchell Wilkie, Director, International Programs

cbm UK
Kirsty Smith, CEO

CBM-US
Caryl García, CEO

Children Without Worms
Dr. David Addiss, Director

Compassion Canada
Steve Clarke, Program Manager

Department of Health, Philippines
Dr. Leda M. Hernandez Division Chief, Disease Prevention & Control Bureau

Deutsches Netzwerk gegen vernachlässigte Tropenkrankheiten (DNTDs)/German Network against Neglected Tropical Diseases

Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative
Dr. Bernard Pécoul, MD, MPH, Executive Director

DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung)
Renate Baehr, Executive Director

effect:hope (formerly The Leprosy Mission Canada)
Peter Derrick, Executive Director

Eisai Co., Ltd.

Evidence Action
Alix Zwane, Executive Director

FIND

Fondation Mérieux
Catherine Dutel, General Secretary, Partnership for Dengue Control
Benoît Miribel, Director General/ Directeur Général
Christophe Longuet, Medical Director/ Directeur Médical
GlaxoSmithKline
Andy Wright, Vice President, Global Health Programmes

Global Health Innovative Technology Fund

Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases
Dr. Neeraj Mistry, Managing Director

Health Partners International of Canada
Glen Shepherd, President

Helen Keller International
Kathy Spahn, President and CEO

Dr. Adrian Hopkins
Chair of the Steering Group of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis
Director of the Mectizan Donation Program

Imperial College London, Schistosomiasis Control Initiative
Prof. Alan Fenwick O.B.E., Director
Dr. Fiona Fleming, Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Research

INMED Partnerships for Children
Dr. Linda Pfeiffer, Ph.D., President and CEO

Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD – France)/Institute of Research for Development
Dr. Frédéric Simard, Head of Research Unit
MIVEGEC (Maladies Infectieuses et Vecteurs : Écologie,Génétique, Évolution et Contrôle/Infectious Diseases and Vectors : Ecology, Genetics, Evolution and Control)
Montpellier, France

Dr. Philippe Solano, Head of Research Unit
Intertryp (Interactions hôtes-vecteurs-parasites-environnement dans les maladies tropicales négligées dues aux trypanosomatidés/Host-vector-parasite interactions in neglected tropical diseases due to trypanosomatids)
Montpellier, France

Institut Pasteur
Pr. Christian Bréchot, General Director

International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations
Marie Staunton CBE, Interim CEO

International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)
Eduardo Pisani, Director General

The International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases
Marianne Comparet, Director
Kamran Rafiq, Communications Director
Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)

Johnson & Johnson
Bill Lin, Director, Worldwide Corporate Contributions

Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology International
Dr. Paul Courtright, Director

His Excellency John Kufuor
President of the Republic of Ghana (2001-2009)
Global Network for Neglected Tropical Disease Special Envoy

The Leprosy Mission England and Wales
Peter Walker, National Director

The Leprosy Mission International
Geoff Warne, General Director

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Professor Janet Hemingway, CBE, FRS
Director, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Professor David Molyneux

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases
Professor Moses J. Bockarie, Director

The London Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease Research, The Natural History Museum London
Professor David Rollinson

Malaria Consortium

Medicines for Malaria Venture

Merck KGaA
Frank Gotthardt, Head of Public Affairs & Corporate Responsibility

Merck, known as MSD outside the United States and Canada
Ken Gustavsen, Executive Director, Corporate Responsibility

Ministry of Health, Brazil
Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, Secretary (Vice Minister) of Health Surveillance

Ministry of Health, Mali, National Institute for Research in Public Health (INRSP)
Dr. Moussa Sacko

MITOSATH
Mundo Sano Foundation/Fundación Mundo Sano
Dr. Silvia Gold, President

Nagasaki University, Nagasaki Lymphatic Filariasis Centre and Neglected Tropical Medicine
Dr. Kazuyo Ichimori, Director

National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
Dr. Peter J. Hotez, Dean

Nigerian Institute of Medical Research
Dr. Margaret Mafe

Dr. Ngozi Njepuome
Former Director of Public Health, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria
Member of the Nigeria NTD Steering Committee

Dr. James Orbinski OC, MSC, Bsc, MD, MA
CIGI Research Chair & Professor in Global Health | Balsillie School of International Affairs
Professor, School of International Policy and Governance | Wilfrid Laurier University
Professor of Medicine, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

Organisation for the Prevention of Blindness/Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité (OPC)
Karim Bengraine

PATH
Steve Davis, President & CEO

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago
Former Director of the Pan American Health Organization
Global Network for Neglected Tropical Disease Special Envoy

RESULTS Canada
Amy Bartlett, Executive Director

Sabin Foundation Europe
James Beery, Trustee

Sabin Vaccine Institute
Dr. Axel Hoos, Interim Chairman, Board of Trustees
Michael W. Marine, Ambassador (Ret), CEO

The Salvation Army Canada & Bermuda Territory
Commissioner Susan McMillan, Territorial Commander

Save the Children
Sarah Bramley
Caroline de Hilarri
Seung Lee
Sanofi
Dr. Robert Sebbag, Vice President “Access to Medicines”

Dr. Lorenzo Savioli, MD, DTM&H, MSC, Cav. O.M.R.I.
Former Director of the World Health Organization Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases

Shionogi & Co., Ltd.

Sightsavers
Dr. Caroline Harper

The Task Force for Global Health
Dr. Mark Rosenberg, President and CEO

TB Alliance
Willo Brock, Senior Vice President for External Affairs

Tokyo Women’s Medical University
Dr. Hiroyoshi Endo, Professor and Chair, Department of International Affairs and Tropical Medicine

Ugoku/Ugokasu (Global Call to Action against Poverty Japan)
Masaki Inaba, Executive Director

University of British Columbia, Neglected Global Diseases Initiative
Dr. Richard Lester, Director
Jocelyn Conway, Coordinator

University Félix Houphouët Boigny, Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire
Professor Eliézer K. N'goran, Parasitologist, Head of Zoology and Animal Biology Department

University of Notre Dame Eck Institute for Global Health
Dr. Katherine Taylor, Associate Director and Director of Global Health Training
Sarah Craig, Communications Specialist

University of Notre Dame, Haiti Program Neglected Tropical Diseases Initiative
Rev. Thomas Streit, C.S.C., Ph.D.
Founder and Principal Investigator

University of Toronto
Dr. James Maskalyk

vfa – Die forschenden Pharma-Unternehmen in Deutschland/German Association of Research-based Pharmaceutical Companies in Germany
Harald Zimmer, Senior Manager International Affairs

Washington Global Health Alliance
Washington University School of Medicine
Gary J. Weil, M.D. Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases)
DOLF Project on elimination of lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis

WaterAid America
Lisa Schechtman, Director of Policy and Advocacy

WaterAid UK

World Food Programme
Peter Rodrigues, Head of the School, Feeding and Chronic Hunger Unit

World Vision Australia
Julianne Scenna, Director, Government & Multilaterals

World Vision International
Martha Newsome, Partnership Leader, Sustainable Health

Dr André Yebakima
Medical Entomologist, Ph.D., Specialist of Vector Control

Yonsei University College of Medicine, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Korea
Dr. Tai-Soon Yong

Zambia NTD Control Technical Working Group and member of WHO-AFRO Regional Programme Review Group (NTD-RPRG (AFRO))
James Mwansa, Consultant