



2000/008502/08

AFRICA FIGHTING MALARIA

Annual Report – January 2003

1. Introduction

Africa Fighting Malaria (AFM) was formed as a Section 21 (non-profit) company in South Africa in May 2000. The aims of the organisation were and are to conduct research into the social and economic aspects of malaria and raise the profile of the disease and the issues surrounding its control in the local and international media.

2 Achievements in 2001/2002

2.1 Economic Research

AFM has been working with the Liberty Institute in India in researching the history of malaria control in that country and in doing an economic study of the impact of the disease. This study has now been completed and a working paper of this research was published in October 2002 for the Eighth Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in New Delhi, India. The final completed version of the paper will be published in India in late February 2003.

This study is one of the first of its kind and will be used to lobby the Indian government to make radical changes to the way in which its malaria control programme is funded and operates.

AFM has updated its analysis of the economic cost of malaria to South Africa. The first such research was conducted in 1999 and was the first economic analysis of malaria in South Africa. Subsequently South Africa suffered one of the worst malaria epidemics in history and therefore it was essential to update this economic study. The results of this study were first presented at the African Diseases conference in Johannesburg in December 2002. We anticipate that the results of this study will be published by AFM and a Washington DC-based think tank in early 2003.

AFM has begun working with the Inter-Regional Economic Network (IREN) in Kenya in examining the burden of disease to that country. AFM and IREN will be collaborating on

a study that assesses the true barriers to access to drugs and healthcare in Kenya and will make a number of economic and policy recommendations. While this publication will only be completed in mid 2003, research has begun and a highly successful workshop (discussed below) was held in Nairobi with a number of key stakeholders.

As part of its wider economic research, AFM has been involved in the debate surrounding the protection of intellectual property rights and access drugs. In this regard, Richard Tren wrote a key chapter on the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS agreement) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for a publication on intellectual property rights, *Ideal Matter*. The other authors of *Ideal Matter* are Julian Morris, Rosalind Mowatt, Prof. Duncan Reekie and the latest version of *Ideal Matter*, was published by the Centre for the New Europe in July 2002. *Ideal Matter* has played a very important role in presenting a balanced and reasoned commentary to the highly charged and frequently biased debate surrounding drug patents.

2.2 Publications in the media

AFM has had a great deal of success in getting articles and letters published in the South African and international press. The publications include *Business Day*, *Wall Street Journal Europe*, *Wall Street Journal Asia*, *New York Times*, *Financial Times* and *Mail and Guardian*.

The success of these opinion pieces and letters has contributed to the wider understanding of health issues in developing countries, the impact of malaria, and the broader issues of economic development, trade and property rights. A list of selected publications is contained in Table 1 below and selected articles have been included in Annex A to this report.

The press coverage is an integral element of AFM's success and we will continue to add to the public debate and understanding of malaria, healthcare and economic development. In addition to the press coverage below, Richard Tren appeared on a documentary on malaria control and DDT on MNet's Carte Blanche programme in September 2002. Richard also appeared on a television documentary on German TV and on various news items relating to malaria control on SABC during November 2001.

Table 1 Selected Press Coverage

Publication	Title	Author	Date	Country/Region
Business Day	Patents not real villain in blocking access to drugs	Julian Morris & Richard Tren	9 November 2001	South Africa
TechCentralStation	Patent Nonsense: Activist Complaints Make AIDS worse	Roger Bate & Richard Tren	2 January 2002	Web Publication
Wall Street Journal Europe	The Boys From Brazil	Richard Tren	25 February 2002	Europe
AIPE	Medicamentos	Richard Tren &	March 2002	Latin America

	genéricos y la SIDA	Roger Bate		
TechCentralStation	Deathly Bans	Richard Tren	29 April 2002	Web publication
Business Day	Drug Firms are Allies in AIDS fight	Richard Tren	3 May 2002	South Africa
TechCentral Station	Doctors Without Principles	Richard Tren	13 June 2002	Web publication
El Tiempo	El DDT y la mortifera campaña de los verdes	Roger Bate & Richard Tren	25 June 2002	Latin America
El Observador	DDT y la mortifera campaña de los verdes	Roger Bate & Richard Tren	26 June 2002	Latin America
American Council on Science & Health (Health Facts & Fears)	POPs Treaty and the Real “Stolen Future”	Richard Tren	27 June 2002	Web publication
Bucks County Courier Times	Biting Truth – the greens’ misguided campaign against DDT	Richard Tren	27 June 2002	United States
The Florida Times-Union	Triumph & Tragedy	Leader quoting Richard Tren	30 June 2002	United States
The Citizen	DDT nonsense from DA	Andrew Kenny	3 July 2002	South Africa
Todito.com	La Guerra Contra las Patentes dificulta combater el sida	Richard Tren & Roger Bate	4 July 2002	Latin America
The Mail & Guardian	SA’s necessary evil	Sarah Duguid quoting Richard Tren	5 July 2002	South Africa
Alanlitica	SIDA: eliminando el remedio	Roger Bate & Richard Tren	8 July 2002	Venezuela & Latin America
Business Day	UN Body got it wrong on DDT	Richard Tren	9 July 2002	South Africa
Wall Street Journal Europe	Free the Industry, Not the Drugs	Richard Tren	11 July 2002	Europe
TechCentral Station	Giving Tolerance a Bad Name	Richard Tren	3 September 2002	Web publication
Wall Street Journal Asia	Protecting Patents, Saving Lives	Barun Mitra & Richard Tren	26 September 2002	Asia
Business Day	AIDS activists’ new complaint not helpful	Richard Tren	2 October 2002	South Africa
United Press International	Nigerian Drugs Deal Soured	Roger Bate	4 November 2002	International
Financial Times	Weapon against malaria is ignored (letter)	Richard Tren	7 November 2002	International
United Press International	DDT Still Saving Lives	Richard Tren	11 November 2002	International
European Voice	Economic Growth Key to Tackling	Richard Tren	29 November 2002	Europe

	Aids			
Financial Times	Drugs and the World's Poor (letter)	Richard Tren	3 December 2002	International
New York Times	Fighting Malaria With DDT	Editorial	23 December 2002	US
New York Times	Africa Needs DDT	Richard Tren	28 December 2002	US

2.3 Website

AFM has maintained its website at www.fightingmalaria.org which is regularly updated with commentary, news and statistics. This website has become a valuable resource for journalists, researchers and students, and we receive a great deal of feedback and commentary resulting from our web publications.

2.4 Outreach and Conferences

AFM has been particularly active in both presenting at and attending conferences around the world. We consider this to be a highly valuable way of advocating for sound policies and practices in malaria control, disease prevention and economic development. A summary of the conferences and workshops held by AFM and its partners is given below.

- AFM held two healthcare events in New Delhi India during March 2002. The first was co-hosted by the Liberty Institute and dealt with malaria control in India. Richard Tren and Dr. Sarrala Subbarao of the Malaria Research Centre in New Delhi made presentations on malaria control and this was followed by a highly constructive and informative discussion with input from a wide range of researchers, health experts and industry representatives.

The second event was co-hosted by the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) and discussed the issue of poverty diseases, public health and access to essential drugs. Presentations were made by among others Julian Morris (International Policy Network), Dr. Path Shah (CCS), Richard Tren (Africa Fighting Malaria), and Dr. Derek Lobo (WHO).

- Richard Tren presented a paper at the plenary session of the Global Health Council's 29th Annual Assembly in Washington DC in May 2002. The paper discussed the role that drug patents play in access to drugs and presented the important successes that South Africa has had in controlling malaria. The other speakers at the session were Dr. Helene Gayle for the Gates Foundation, Dr. David Heyman of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Dr. Roberto Teixeira of the Brazilian National Aids Programme
- AFM participated in a seminar in June 2002 in Geneva to discuss the proposed amendments to the WTO's Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

(TRIPS Agreement). This event was chaired by Dr. Francis Gurry from the World Intellectual Property Organisation the key note address was given by Dr. Bibek Debroy from the Rajiv Gandhi Institute in New Delhi. A panel discussion followed with presentations made by Julian Morris (International Policy Network), Richard Tren (Africa Fighting Malaria), Dr. Amir Attaran (Harvard Centre for International Development) and Francisco Canabrava (Brazilian Mission to UN).

The seminar was attended by a wide range of delegates from country missions to the UN, TRIPS negotiators, academic researchers, and representative from the drugs industry. Prior to this event, Richard Tren from Africa Fighting Malaria made a lunchtime presentation to select number of country representatives to the UN in Geneva.

- In August 2002, Richard Tren presented a paper on economic freedom and public health at the South African Malaria Control Conference in Malelane, Mpumalanga. The conference is enormously important for the exchange of ideas on malaria control and healthcare in general, and the paper was very well received.
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development took place in Johannesburg in August and September 2002. AFM worked closely with International Policy Network maintained a strong presence at the summit and held of briefings and discussions during the summit. AFM issued specific fact sheets and documents relating to healthcare and this generated a great deal of interest from journalists and researchers.

Prior to the summit, Richard Tren presented a paper at an event that was held in Johannesburg to launch the publication of Sustainable Development: Perpetuating Poverty or Promoting Progress. This book which is edited by Julian Morris, deals with a wide range of development issues that are central to improved public health and prosperity.

- The Eighth Conference of Parties (COP8) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met between 21 and 30 October 2002 in New Delhi, India. Public health and the spread of infectious diseases has become an increasingly important issue in the climate change debate.

Africa Fighting Malaria, along with the Liberty Institute and International Policy Network held a seminar prior to the COP8 meeting in order to explain the uncertainties surrounding the climate change science and to highlight that there is no simple link between climate change and infectious diseases. Historical evidence suggests that it is mankind's activities that have by far the greatest effect on diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. The relationship between climate and these vector borne diseases is highly complex and the claims that higher temperatures and rainfall will increase the incidence of vector borne diseases are

simplistic and unhelpful. The seminar was well attended and generated a great deal of debate.

- In order to shape and contribute to the research being undertaken on the state of health in Kenya, a workshop was held in Nairobi on Saturday with the Inter-Regional Economic Network (IREN). Presentations were made by James Shikwati and Richard Tren and this was followed by a highly constructive and informative session of information sharing and debate. The workshop was attended by academic researchers, representatives of NGO's, healthcare charities and the Kenyan Medical Association.

A summary of the conferences and workshops that involved AFM is given below.

Table 2 Summary of Conferences & Workshops

Conference	Venue	Presentation/Attended	Dates
Liberty Institute/AFM workshop on Indian Malaria Control	New Delhi, India	Presentations made by Richard Tren	27 March 2002
CSS/AFM Conference on Poverty Diseases	New Delhi, India	Presentations made by Richard Tren	28 March 2002
International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (IFPMA) - World Health Assembly Reception	Geneva, Switzerland	Presentation made by Richard Tren	12 May 2002
Global Health Council 29 th Annual Assembly	Washington DC, USA	Presentation made by Richard Tren	31 May 2002
IPN Conference on TRIPS	Geneva, Switzerland	Presentation made by Richard Tren	16 June 2002
Presentation to WTO country delegates	Geneva, Switzerland	Presentation made by Richard Tren	16 June 2002
South African Malaria Control Conference	Malelane, South Africa	Presentation made by Richard Tren	13-15 August 2002
IPN/Free Market Foundation launch of Sustainable Development Book	Johannesburg, South Africa	Presentation made by Richard Tren	20 August 2002
South African Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs Association – Quarterly Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa	Presentation made by Richard Tren	27 September 2002
Medical Research Council – Sustainable Healthcare in Africa	Cape Town, South Africa	Attended by Richard Tren	1 – 3 October 2002
IFPMA Annual Meeting,	Berlin, Germany	Presentation made by Roger Bate	30 September – 2 October 2002
Liberty Institute Conference on Climate Change	New Delhi, India	Presentation made by Richard Tren	21 October 2002
Hands Across The Divide – HIV/AIDS in Africa	Gabarone, Botswana	Attended by Richard Tren	12 – 14 November 2002
Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM)	Arusha, Tanzania	Attended by Richard Tren	17 – 22 November 2002
IREN Healthcare in Kenya Workshop	Nairobi, Kenya	Workshop led by Richard Tren	23 November 2002
African Diseases – Old with New Threats	Johannesburg, South Africa	Two presentations made by Richard Tren	2 – 5 December 2002

AFM will continue to present papers at conferences, both nationally and internationally in 2003.

3 Future activities

AFM will continue to contribute to the public policy debate on these crucial international health issues. This year, we plan to achieve the following:

- Publish our research into the history of malaria in India and the economic impact of malaria to that country.
- Publish research on the state of healthcare and barriers to healthcare in Kenya and make policy recommendations for changes to Kenyan public health policy.
- Publish our finalised report on the impact of DDT and new Artemisinin-based combination therapy drugs on the malaria epidemic in South Africa in early 2003.
- Continue to influence the public debate on health matters by publishing opinion pieces in leading newspapers and journals, writing letters and engaging with opinion makers and strategic thinkers around the world.
- AFM has been asked by the South African Department of Health to play a greater role in advocacy and education within the Southern Africa Malaria Control Programme (SAMC) which reports to the WHO Afro office in Harare. This is a key appointment and will allow AFM to influence public health policy in all the Southern African malaria control programmes.
- The US Government is keen to effect a policy change in the use of DDT in malaria control. There is an increasingly strong consensus that the USAID's policy of not funding the use of insecticides and DDT in particular is misguided, and Roger Bate has been lobbying for policy changes in Washington DC. The US Senate's Africa Subcommittee has requested that AFM assist in hearings that are planned on malaria control policies in the first half of 2003. AFM will raise funds for malaria experts from South Africa to make presentations there, and will be continuing to lobby for a change in donor policies. This is of utmost importance for African countries that are reliant on donor funds and are unable to use the most appropriate tools, such as indoor residual spraying with insecticides, because of an unwillingness of donors to fund such activities. Success in this regard is likely to make the use of DDT in malaria control easier and less controversial.

4. Summary

AFM has continued to influence public policy on healthcare issues, particularly with respect to malaria control. We feel that we have achieved some great successes in this regard, and are very pleased with the increased public awareness of the issues surrounding malaria control and healthcare in general.

AFM has increased its public profile by making presentations at some key conferences in South Africa, the US, India and Europe and through the international media. This work will continue as will our ongoing economic research into the economic cost of malaria and the political economy of malaria control.