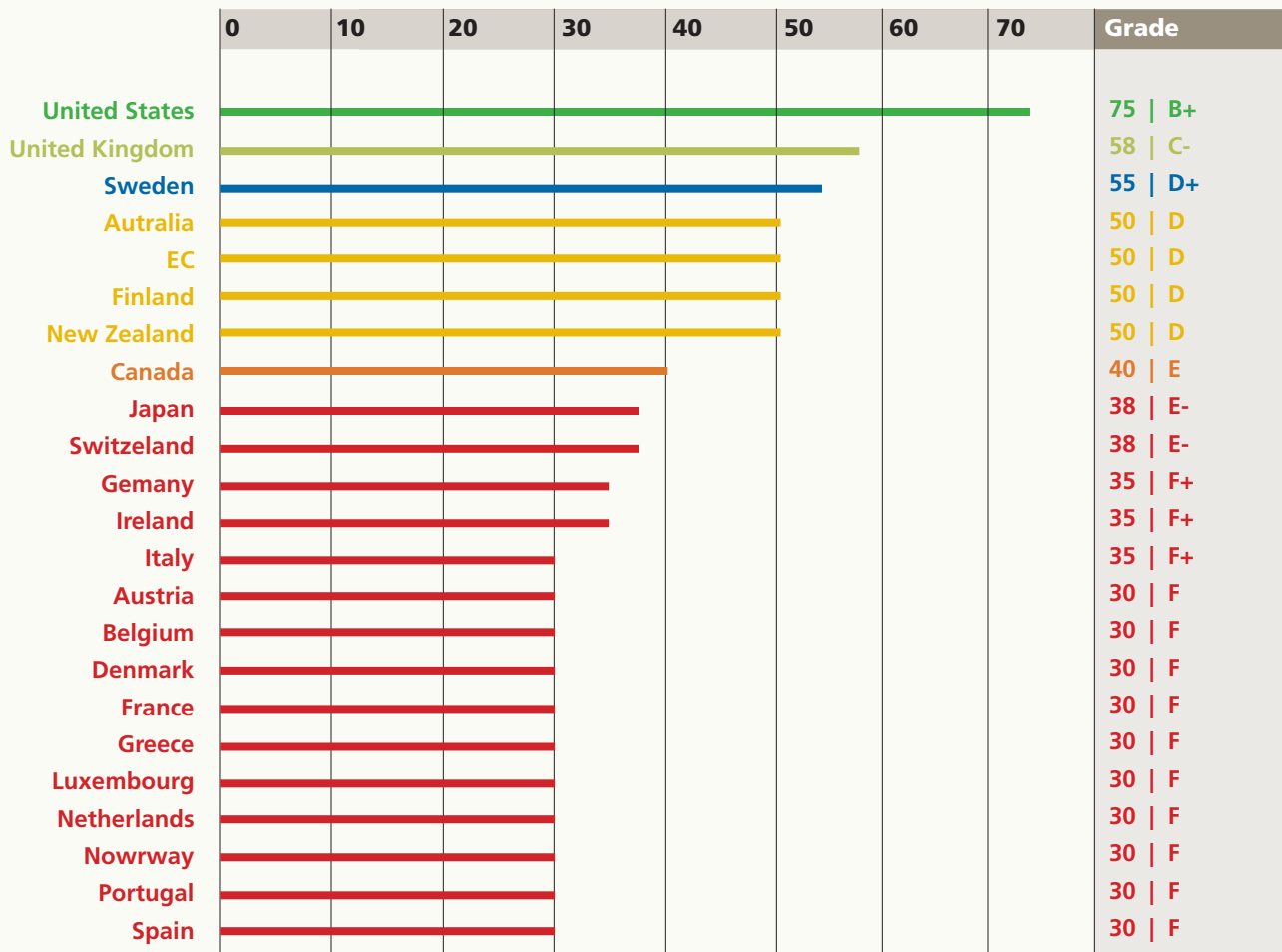


MALARIA – DONOR SCORECARD

Poor monitoring of results and a lack of transparency threaten malaria control programs.

Political interest and public funding for malaria control has increased substantially in recent years to nearly US\$1 billion annually. Africa Fighting Malaria has compiled a malaria-donor scorecard to assess these efforts based on how or whether government agencies publish information and evaluate their programs. The results are summarized in the table below. The US Agency for International Development was the most transparent, publishing detailed budgetary information, contracts and project evaluations. Few donor agencies published malaria control spending information or outcome evaluations. Most were unresponsive and wholly unavailable for public scrutiny.



MALARIA – DONOR SCORECARD

Why a score card?

Many African countries rely heavily on donor support to run public health programs. This gives donors substantial influence over program priorities, which may not coincide with good, evidence-based policies or what the country actually needs. A scorecard is a convenient way for the advocacy community and the general public to assess how donors are performing. It also allows us to set baselines for donor funding, transparency and performance in order to track reforms over time within donor agencies. This is critical to holding donors accountable for promises made, and can foster competition among agencies to improve their performance.

What was AFM looking for?

Supporting malaria control is not just a function of financing. Most OECD-country donors give to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria. AFM is interested in how open and transparent the OECD donor agencies are with their malaria spending. Furthermore we are interested in how and whether donors are supporting the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations on malaria control and, most importantly, how they measure progress against targets donors have set for themselves. AFM has scored donors according to the time it took them to respond to our queries, according to transparency (i.e. the availability of information and ease of understanding), monitoring and evaluation, and the amount and quality of information publicly available on their websites.

What did AFM find?

Over half the OECD donors approached failed to acknowledge multiple requests for basic information. Only 5 donor agencies - the EU, New Zealand, Sweden, UK and the US - responded promptly or within a reasonable time period. Canada, Sweden, the US and UK are the only countries that provide adequate descriptions of their malaria control efforts through their websites. The US alone provides detailed budgetary and contractual spending information. Few donors prioritize monitoring and evaluation, or thoroughly and scientifically assess whether or not the interventions they support lead to reduced malaria cases and deaths. Some agencies and politicians have set targets for reducing malaria, yet they are ill-equipped or unwilling to establish baselines against which to evaluate progress.

What does AFM recommend?

To be held accountable for spending public money abroad to control malaria, government agencies must:

- Respond to queries about how they spend public funds.
- Measure baseline rates of malaria cases and deaths.
- Measure outcomes (impact of malaria rates) in addition to inputs (nets and drugs).
- Publish detailed budgets, contracts and outcome evaluations.
- Supply the OECD with up to date and accurate information on their public health spending.

FOR THE FULL SCORECARD, VISIT www.fightingmalaria.org

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